32-1944

Sub-Committees Have Busy Week With Child Delinquency, Slum And Hospital Hearings

Tribune-Washington, D.C.
1-29-44

Mammas Told to "Lay That Beer Bottle Down"--Care for Children

President Roosevelt's birthday and a week of gala celebrations in his honor, and raising of funds for the great work which he began in eliminating the dreaded infantile paralysis, have not kept District Sub-Committees from having one of the busiest weeks of the new year.

Juvenile delinquency, slum clearance and hospitilization were the three major hearings brought before the Sub-Committees.

Baby Packing Mamas

Mothers who frequent beer parlors with their babies in their arms could alleviate many of the existing child delinquency problems if they cut out this practice and attend to the duties of properly rearing their children is the opinion of Captain Rhoda Milligan, head of the Police Women's Bureau. Captain Milligan also expressed her desire for a revival of an old District curfew law which would forbid admission of children under 16 to the movies and other places of amusement after 8 p.m. or during school hours. Colored theatre managers have co-operated in this program in the past, she said.

Representative Thomas D'Alesandro, (Dem., Md.), before whose committee the public hearings on juvenile delinquency were heard, expressed his opinion that "We've got to stop talking about such problems that we know exist and do something about them. If it means more child care centers, we'll have to set them up." 1-29-44

Clearing House" Needed

Dr. Stanley W. Geshell, head of the Juvenile Court Guidance Clinic, took the view that more and better recreational facilities and the establishing of a "clearing house" where parents could meet to discuss and iron out many of their child problems would be of great aid in cutting down the delinquency situation. He did not attribute the conditions here to the war but to the old fashioned kind such as stealing, truancy, and running away from home.

Major Edward J. Kelley, superintendent of police, went along with Captain Milligan in favoring a curfew on children's nightly activities.

Slums Seen Little Change in 15 Years

Intimating that all is not being done to erase slums from Washington, Senator Arthur Capper, (Rep., Kans.), member of a Senate sub-committee headed by Senator Harold H. Burton, (Rep., Ohio), investigating slum conditions in the District, stated that slum conditions have seen little change in the last 15 years. The Kansas Senator said that he has made several tours of District slums in the past fifteen years and have found conditions "about the same." A total of eleven tours have been made by the committee within the last three months, according to Senator Burton.

Low Cost Housing Needed

Major General U. S. Grant, 3rd, chairman of the National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, made a strong appeal for sufficient funds for an extended public housing program for low income groups.

It is his opinion that it will be necessary for the public to take an important part in such an undertaking.

The Alley Dwelling Authority, which was set up in 1934 as the result of a survey of slum housing made by John Idler, who currently heads the NCHA, the new name for the ADA, and who was hired by the Commission in 1930, has been hindered in its work because of the lack of funds the general intimated. 1-29-44

He said the ADA program was predicated upon regular appropriations for the work over a period of ten years but that he, General Grant, understood that the money was forthcoming for only one or two years. The commission, the General said, feels that the program should be continued and the necessary funds provided for its operation.

Bad Homes Crime Breeders

Improper environment was given as one of the reasons for a certain percentage of crime by Major Kelley.

Slum conditions are in a large measure responsible for the laxity of inhabitants, the desire for fathers not to work, and the disobedience of children to their parents which eventually leads them to commit felonies the police chief said.

Favor Compromise

Commissioners J. Russell Young and Charles W. Kutz backed General Grant in favoring the compromise between private builders and public housing agencies for post war development in cleaning up alley slums and providing low-rent homes for low-income families with Government subsidy of some kind.

Hospitals Need Beds and Linen

The Senate District Health Committee, headed by Senator Pat McCarran (Dem., Nevada), made it known, thru the chairman, that it "stands empathically behind" the sub-committee which investigated Gallinger with the assurance that the Commissioners will work out a program to meet conditions set out in the Committee's report within the next three weeks, before going on with the acute hospitilization shortage in the District.

The committee side-stepped the Gallinger situation, which requested the dismissal of Commissioner Guy Mason and three other District Commissioners as a result of the investigation, because of what they considered a more pressing problem. 1-29-44

Lack Funds

It was revealed at the hearings that Washington's hospitals in many instances, are without funds, and their annuities and donations from private sources have disappeared thus making it impossible for them to do additional building, supplying the necessary help and obtaining the proper equipment to meet the needs of the expanded population.

Reports from Mrs. Millard Tydings, wife of the Maryland Senator, and Mrs. Warren Barbour, widow of the New Jersey Senator, revealed that all of the hospitals, except one, are "sorely in need of additional beds, equipment and facilities such as linen and the like." The Commissioners have been directed to make an immediate study of hospital conditions and find out whether the District can get Federal Funds to ease the situation.

A Thought for the Week

Tribune-Washington D.C.
By JAMES B. BLACKISTONE
1-29-44

SHOULD THERE BE A CURFEW FOR CHILDREN?

The ages for participation in crime has, in the last two decades, gradually fallen from adults, to adolescents, and now to juveniles. Indeed, at present, the worst offenders are juveniles.

This deplorable situation proves without doubt, that something is radically wrong with our present social structure. That mere children should become criminals suggests, that the home, the school, or the church, or all; are growing indifferent to the welfare of children.

That mere children should engage in criminal practices suggests the need for a re-examination of our present Criminal Code for possible revision; or the enactment of new, and more drastic legislation, to combat this new menace.

Children of today do not receive the discipline, either at home or at school, that children in earlier eras had to accept.

It is not meant that present methods pertaining to child welfare are wrong; but suggests that present methods provide the child, with anti-social tendencies, a means of developing them.

It is suggested also, that too much emphasis is placed on punishment; and not enough on prevention of crime.

As we go about our everyday business, it is not uncommon to meet children, of every age, in the streets at all hours of day or night. Nobody questions their activity. Perhaps if they did, they'd probably be "cussed out."

Police officers should be empowered, for example, to stop a boy or girl of age 12 encountered alone on the street at midnight. The child should be required to state his or her business. If, in the opinion of the officer, the statement has a false ring; then the child should be taken home and placed in the custody of his parents. 1-29-44

Our streets are cluttered with broken bottles. Missiles are hurled at passing street-cars and buses. Pocketbooks are snatched. Stores are burglarized. Even attempts at criminal assault are made. Too many young girls are engaged in prostitution.

This "freedom" contributes to the problem of juvenile delinquency.

This "freedom" also suggests that some parents are unable to properly discipline their children; or are indifferent to their welfare.

A report should then be made to the juvenile court. An investigator should be assigned to make every inquiry into the child's life; his home, school, church, companions...If the investigation is favorable, then the matter should be dropped.

If, however, something is found to be wrong that does, or will, contribute to the child's delinquency; immediate steps should be taken to correct the condition.

Yes; there should be a curfew for children!

Boy Tells How 10 Youths Beat Woman on Trolley

World-Telegram-New York
5-31-44

An eye witness related today night and escaped by leaping through the windows of the car, that at least 10 Negro boys and girls kicked and punched a woman passenger into unconsciousness in a wild purse-snatching melee aboard a Brooklyn trolley last

Saw Razor, Knives.

"They jabbed and kicked and punched her. There must have been 10 or more. As the trolley car neared the station (the Empire Blvd. police station, where the motorman halted the car and summoned police) Negroes in the rear started to jump out of windows, apparently afraid to be caught with weapons. When the trolley was cleared I was on a bench in the Police said one open razor and seven knives were found in the car. Principal victim of the attack was Ruth Upham, 25, of 1096 Park Ave., Brooklyn. Fifteen Negro youths were rounded up by police with guns drawn after the disturbance.

Miss Upham, who had a laceration over the left eye and was limping from what, she said, was a severe back injury, she said: "I was knocked out before we got to the station house and when I woke up I was on a bench in the police station."

Miss Upham said she lost count of the blows rained on her after she feared attempts to shield her face from punches.

She said she had attended the at reprisal.

Park, was described by a passenger, who saw the attack as a "decent looking old boy, also a Negro." Purse snatching came next. She asked that his identity be withheld because he feared

An insurance broker and student at Columbia University Teachers College.

The incident, which occurred in the eye witness said, was standing in front of the car left its terminal "When the trolley was cleared I waited. First

...iends at Ebbets Field and was on her way to Manhattan for dinner when the disturbance broke out. She said a $5 bill was missing from her purse when she recovered it.

Other Passengers Hit.

According to police, a number of other passengers were struck when they resisted attempts to snatch their purses and some windows in the car were broken.

Of the eight youths arrested, James Green, 17, of 35 McDonough St., Brooklyn, was charged with assault.

Held on charges of disorderly conduct were Rita Lloyd, 17, of 1568 Fulton St.; Helen Kirland, 17, of 1470 Bergen St.; Jeanette Jones, 16, of 1257 Bergen St.; Clarence Holland, 16, of 582 Throop St.; George Corbett, 16, of 719 Kingsboro Walk; Edward Noel, 16, of 1399 Pacific St., and Robert Huestion, 17, of 293 Monroe St., all of Brooklyn.

The girls, dressed alike in white skirts, black satin waistbands and white shoes, said they were members of a social club known as the Vigilantes. 6-31-44

Green entered a blanket denial of the charges in Brooklyn Adolescents Court today before Magistrate Albert M. Landau, who increased bail form $200 to $500 and reserved decision until Monday. The cases of the others will be heard then.

"Let's Kill Somebody"

That young children are uncivilized and not always noble savages, every parent knows. Children love to wreak imaginary destruction. Rarely enough to be notable, the destruction is sometimes actual. A tragic case, reported in New York City last week: Times, Chicago, Ill.

The third-grade teachers of Harlem's drab, grey brick P.S. 119 took their children into the school yard for recess. One teacher played the piano while five little circles of Negro girls danced gaily. But nine-year-old Margaret Patton had a skin rash and sat alone on a bench. She was a well-behaved youngster—so well-behaved that she sometimes tattled to the teachers about other girls. 5-22-44

Into the yard came two sixth-grade girls, 11 and 13 years old, wearing black Halloween masks. One of them grabbed Margaret's arm, the other plunged into her chest a two-edge, two-inch blade. Margaret fell silently and the attackers fled. The teachers hustled the children indoors. A few minutes later, Margaret Patton died. The police found the killers in a nearby areaway, throwing into the bonfire their knives, masks and some stolen report cards. One was booked for homicide, the other for juvenile delinquency. The sociological background:

¶ Madeline Kirkland, 11, who did the stabbing, has a 26-year-old mother, separated from her husband. Some neighbors say that a girl should not have a baby when she is 15; others say that Madeline has been spoiled. Times, Chicago, Ill.

¶ Eileen Foster, 13, is also the child of separated parents. Her mother works as an apartment superintendent. In her home reporters saw evidence of alcoholism.

Deportment: B. Madeline and Eileen had often been mischievous nuisances. Once Margaret Patton tattled when one of the girls stole money from her mother's apartment. The older girls began feuding with Margaret and her brother, William, who threw a bottle which cut Madeline. Last autumn the older girls' teacher began giving them as much special attention as was possible in the busy public-school life. The girls, too, made an effort, got As in deportment. This term they had slipped back to Bs, but the teacher still had hopes for them. 5-22-44

One day Madeline and Eileen came late to school, saw some report cards unguarded in an office. They stole the cards to learn their marks. Margaret Patton saw the theft, reported it, and was overheard by Madeline and Eileen. Said Madeline: "Let's kill somebody so we'll be sent away to a home; my parents don't treat me right."

Harlem's Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney declared: "I had a 14-year-old boy before me on a first-degree murder charge last week. Now an eleven-year-old girl. What is it all coming to?"

'Solve' Delinquent Case: 3 Negro Boys Get Life

Daily Worker-New York, N.Y. 5-19-44

By EUGENE GORDON

Theodore Backen, deputy attorney general of New Jersey, said yesterday that under the laws of his state children of any age—"no matter how young they are," were his words—may be executed if found guilty of murder in the first degree.

Backen made that statement in answer to a question with reference to the three Camden boys who, on Wednesday, were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. The Daily Worker conferred with him by phone.

The boys, according to the Associated Press—William High, 12; James Burrell, 16; and Lawrence Johnson, 14, all Negroes—were charged with the fatal beating of William Freeburger, 60, in a holdup last Oct. 1.

CITES DEATH PENALTY

Asked whether he did not think such a law was barbarous, the deputy attorney general countered that if the jury had not recommended mercy in their cases the three children would have been automatically sentenced to death.

"Why is that?" he was asked. "Doesn't the New Jersey law recognize so-called juvenile delinquents and make special provisions for treating them?" 5-19-44

"No matter how young a person may be," Mr. Backen said, emphatically, "he does not benefit from the juvenile-delinquency provisions of our laws when charged with murder. Our highest court decided that about a year ago."

He said that it depended on the state prison authorities whether or not the boys will be retained there, sent to some farm, or remanded to a reform school.

Harlem Gang Kills Girl, 9; Sister Shot

World-Telegram-New York, N.Y. 6-7-44

Two Harlem gangs met in pitched battle on the streets early today and, as usual, the chief damage was done to bystanders. A nine-year-old girl was killed and her sister, 11, wounded by gunfire.

The fight was one more between juvenile gangs that have plagued the section in recent weeks. Half a dozen members of a gang called the Comanches rolled up in a taxi to 113th St. and Fifth Ave. and opened up with guns and knives on an equal number of Happy Gents.

About a dozen shots were fired as the fight moved westward along 112th St. and the noise attracted Bernardine George, 9, and her sister, Paulette, 11, of No. 29, to a window. Two bullets caught the sisters as they looked on.

Taken to Harlem Hospital, Bernardine died or a head wound while Paulette was found to have a flesh wound in the left arm.

Police found several knives in the street and a .22 rifle, which they said was one of those used in the fight, in a vacant tenement flat. 6-7-44

They rounded up four boys. Two of them, brothers of 14 and 15 suspected of having fired the rifle, were charged with juvenile delinquency. Two others, Edward Jones, 17, of 54 E. 103rd St., and a lad of 16 were locked up at the W. 123rd St. station on charges of assault and violation of the Sullivan law.

FIGHT SOUNDS NOTE OF DISCORD AT DUKE DANCE

Bee-Chicago, Ill. 2-20-44

Tardy swing addicts coming to the Duke Ellington dance last Sunday night, were treated to some non-musical excitement and had some of the jive jarred out of their systems by a pistol fight between juveniles on the sidewalk in front of the White City ballroom.

The excitement was the result of the shooting and seriously wounding of Willie Wilbanks, 19 W. 60th street, by Adolph Bailey, 17, 4316 Calumet. Wilbanks was shot in the left side of his stomach and taken to County hospital where his condition was said to be critical. 2-20-44

Bailey was arrested at his home last Thursday. Appearing before Judge Mason Sullivan in Boy's court Monday, the case was continued to March 14, pending the outcome of Wilbank's condition.

FBI Chief Greets Junior Police; Major Kelly Issues 'em Badges

Tribune-Washington, D.C. 2-26-44

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, this week sent official greetings to a group of more than 1,000 Negro boys and girls who have initiated their own program of preventing and combatting wartime juvenile delinquency in one Washington police precinct—No. 13.

The youngsters, organized into the Junior Police Corps and the Junior Citizens Corps of the Thirteenth Precinct, received Mr. Hoover's greetings at public ceremonies in the Banneker Junior High School.

Previously, Mr. Hoover had written to Patrolman Oliver A. Cowan, 29-year-old organizer of the corps:

"This is one step which might be taken in every community in the country in combatting the present increase in juvenile delinquency.

Over 300 Girl Members

The 1,308 members of the two corps, including more than 300 assembled youths that they had having started the most construc- theatre chain which donated girls, crowded into Banneker's ment since the begin- headquarters for the corps. auditorium to receive their official and that he was considering the ning of the to check the badges from Major Edward J. establishment of Junior Police spread of juvenile delinquency." Kelly, superintendent and chief Corps and Junior Citizens' Corps. Other speakers who praised the of the Metropolitan police force, in other sections of the District, young officer and the youths in- In pinning the first badge on Following the presentation, ciuded former Municipal Judge Rudolph Robinson, 18-year-old Representative Ed Rowe (Rep., James A. Cobb; Dr. Mordecai W. acting mayor of the corps' Ohio), addressed the group and Johnson, president of Howard Youthtown, Major Kelly told the praised Patrolman Cowan "for University, and R. Byars, of a

32-1944

FACTS AND FANCIES

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa
2-26-44

BY EUSTACE GAY

Movies And Delinquency

For many years it has been recognized by persons competent to express an opinion that the movies are a determining factor in the growth of juvenile delinquency in its manifold ramifications. Nevertheless, nothing . . . or practically nothing . . . has been done to remedy a condition which is a serious one.

GAY

Of course, we tend to move slowly where large concentrations of wealth are concerned; and the movies are "big business." Will Hays has not been able to do for the movies what Judge Landis has done for organized baseball. Neither the movie industry's censors nor the censors paid from State funds do much to make the average movie suitable for children.

The "box office" controls the movies and what the censors remove, when they remove anything, is what anyone with any sense of decency at all would eliminate. However, much passes by all the censors which, without saying so in words, gives an utterly false conception of life to impressionable youthful movie-goers. 2-26-44

Most supposedly true-to-life pictures fall within this category. For instance. I have seen women CRY as they watched the screen because the third party in an illicit love affair "lost out", as she might have known she was likely to. There was no condemnation for the man who took the love of a faithful wife and a foolish lover at the same time; no sympathy for the faithful wife; nothing but maudlin sentimentality for the person who was manifestly WRONG.

The average crime picture never gets over to youth that "crime does not pay," even if the criminal in the picture does lose his life as he "shoots it out" with the "law." The picture is so made that it neither "points a moral" nor "adorns a tale." What it does most of the time is to send out into the community youthful hero worshippers of the criminal portrayed. If you don't believe me, watch the children on the streets simulating hold-ups.

The "ultra" styles for women's wear seen in the movies and patterned for ordinary street wear are a great factor in making women unsafe on public highways and in private social intercourse. I sometimes say that the modern woman goes around like a battleship, "stripped for action."

Added to the vicious influence of the movies is the moral instability of the movie-makers—the producers and the players—most of whom seem utterly oblivious of the fact that they are heroes and heroines to millions of impressionable and inexperienced youths and what they are and do is considered "quite all right" by these inexperienced young people. 2-26-44

The question is—what should be done about it? The answer is very simple: Make movies which young people can see and benefit by. Such pictures, however, might not "pay" —and thereby hangs the tale!!

Soviet Russia, the leader in so many social fields in recent years, has just forbidden children under 16 from attending movies during school days without special permission; and, even when permission is granted, the children must be accompanied by approved teachers or adult school leaders.

This step was taken, we are informed, in an effort to stamp out juvenile war-time delinquency. Across the bridge in Camden N. J., the County Prosecutor has been discussing with the moving picture theatre owners the enforcement of a law barring children of 14 and under from attending movies without an adult.

In Philadelphia, nothing is being done. I was struck by the number of small children waiting in line for the opening of a neighborhood theatre a few Sundays ago. These children don't work; and it is fair to presume they got their money from an adult relative. When the time comes that adults must accompany minors to the movies, two things will happen: Fewer children will go and (perhaps) those who do go will see better pictures.

Harlem Groups Cooperate In Juvenile Aid Program

People's Voice - New York, N.Y.
3-4-44

The Coordinating Council of the 28th Precinct, of which Jacob Licker is captain, is stepping up its program of juvenile aid in an effort to create interest in community settlement houses, social organizations, churches and other groups. The council's job is to coordinate the facilities of these organizations so that they may be used to their fullest capacity.

The following schools are providing recreation for youth of Harlem:

- PS 10, 117 st and St. Nicholas av, Monday to Friday for children from 3 to 6 pm and for those of all ages from 6 to 10 pm;
- PS 170, 31 W 111 st, Monday to Friday from 3 to 5 pm for children from 6 to 14, and from 7 to 10 for those of all ages;
- PS 184, 25 W 116 st, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 7 to 10 pm for children of all ages.

Other organizations and churches which have organized recreation programs include:

- Lincoln Recreation Center, 235 W 113 st;
- St Martin's P. E. Church, 122d st and Lenox av; 3-4-44
- Mount Morris Church, 122d st and Mt. Morris Park West;
- Seven Day Adventists, 101 W 123d st;
- Salem M. E. Church, 129 st and Seventh av.

Soldiers and Sailors Blamed For 'BobbySox' Delinquency

Tribune - Washington, D.C.
3-4-44

Dating up of bobby sox girls by soldiers and sailors on leave was blamed in part for the war-time juvenile delinquency problem by Judge Walter H. Beckham, of the juvenile-domestic relations court in Miami, Fla., in testimony before a Senate Judiciary sub-committee, Saturday.

He complained that military and naval authorities are indifferent about the love-life of servicemen on leave and asserted:

"If the military police and naval shore patrols had strict instructions to stop the debauchery of servicemen, juvenile delinquency would be cut down. I feel the military authorities could do more than they are now doing." 3-4-44

The accusations came at hearings conducted by Senator Charles O. Andrews (Dem., Fla.) on plans to send runaway delinquents back to their homes with Federal money. Judge Beckham declared that a resolution advocating use of military and naval police to break up delinquency had been adopted by the National Sheriffs' Association.

Senator Andrews and Senator Homer Ferguson (Rep., Mich.) supported the position taken by Judge Beckham. Senator Ferguson also said that if the War and Navy Department chiefs failed to take action, the subcommittee might bring out a resolution to see what can be done about the suggestion.

Soldiers "Know the Ropes"

"If the M.P.'s would show and use their control all over the country it would constitute a big reduction in the delinquency problem," Judge Beckham said further. 3-4-44

"The tragic part of the situation is that innocent girls in their teens make dates with experienced men in the service who know the ropes.' I believe there should be a curfew for servicemen in the cities and towns near the military camps, as well as for children on city streets."

The judge backed the Andrews bill under which Social Security funds would be used to send runaway juveniles home, but advised against using such money for adults to escort them because it might create patronage. He said State and local welfare agencies could handle the escort and other problems, but estimated 90 per cent of the runaways could return home alone if given rail or bus tickets and transferred from so-called "illegal" to legal employment as a pose.

300 HARLEM BOYS PUT IN NEW JOBS

New York Herald Tribune
7-17-44

WMC Report Tells of Test in Combating Delinquency by Better Employment

Three hundred Harlem boys have been placed in the undertaking since January, when Dr. Abraham Ehrenfeld, principal of the junior high school, and Ernest Osborne, secretary of the New York Educational Projects, approached the WMC on the idea of helping boys obtain the proper kind of after-school employment. The WMC agreed to make a junior USES counselor available on a part-time basis to assist in placing 14 and 16-year-old pupils in suitable jobs. 7-17-44

The guidance program worked out in the Educational Projects plan included part-time placement as one of its functions, attempting to correlate the pupil's work-life and school-life, safeguard his health, cooperate with the home and prevent future educational handicaps, the WMC report says.

In reviewing the projects, Miss Evelyn Murray, USES employment counselor for juniors, said: "We consider it an achievement and to have taken nearly half of the 700 engaged in jobs and placed them in the proper type of work. Many of the boys below the 16-year-old age limit for factory jobs, did not realize that by holding called 'illegal' occupation. Still others needed money, but had no idea how to go about finding any suitable jobs."

In January, the report discloses, 760 out of 1,700 pupils were working in occupations which the WMC labels "illegal" for boys in the 14-16 age bracket. The USES succeeded in placing 307 in such jobs as porters in chain restaurants or errand boys, and in finding light factory jobs, such as floor boys in the needle trades industry, for those over 16. WMC statistics for June showed 108 job placements. Interviews granted in June numbered 1,184 and referrals 352.

The report reviews the progress of the undertaking since January, when Dr. Abraham Ehrenfeld, principal of the junior high school, and Ernest Osborne, secretary of the New York Educational Projects, approached the WMC on the idea of helping boys obtain the proper kind of after-school employment. The WMC agreed to make a junior USES counselor available on a part-time basis to assist in placing 14 and 16-year-old pupils in suitable jobs. 7-17-44

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The report reviews the progress

Doomed Men Just Grown

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

Delinquents -- Chaplain

3-11-44

The Rev. Mr. Van Pelt, Who Has Seen 20 Die in Chair, Blames Society

THE REV. HARRY C. VAN PELT

By Staff Correspondent

BELLEVILLE, N.J.—"In the death house, condemned men are just grown up juvenile delinquents who traveled too long the road of crime."

This was the statement made to the AFRO by the Rev. Harry C. Van Pelt of 136 Stephens Avenue, shortly after he had witnessed his twentieth official execution last week as chaplain of the New Jersey State Prison at Trenton.

The average man facing death clings to hope as long as there is the slightest chance he will not have to die. 3-11-44

Soften at End

But when that hope is gone, he loses whatever hardened characteristics he has acquired and becomes just another penitent human being, the minister said.

He referred to the last two men he had seen die in the ugly oaken chair at the State prison, Joseph Swan, 27, of New Brunswick, Howard E. Jefferson, 28, of Salem, N.J., who were executed only two weeks apart:

"Both were convicted and sentenced for murder, but during their last meals and just prior to their executions, they were only bad boys who confessed regret for the pattern of life they had followed," the minister said.

Society to Blame

The chaplain is of the opinion that society is largely to blame for the thousands of criminals in and out of prisons; that if individuals and organizations paid more attention to juvenile delinquents there would be fewer prison inmates, less executions.

"It is an established fact that 85 per cent of adult criminals began to go wrong as juveniles.

"The sources of their crimes are bad companionship, broken homes, bad environments, and the lack of proper recreational opportunities," he says.

Supporting this theory, the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt recalled the execution of a 19-year-old boy, whose father completed a 14-year prison term just prior to the son's conviction.

Blames Home Conditions

Bad home conditions, he said, and a lack of parental guidance sent the youth to his death.

Another example was that of a brother and sister involved in a murder case.

The brother was electrocuted, the sister given a life sentence. He said unfavorable social conditions made law breakers of both.

In answer to a question on what do condemned men talk about during the last few hours in the death house, the chaplain said:

Talk of Everything

"Everything. 3-11-44

"The first execution I saw was that of a former classmate. He talked of school days, childhood activities, and other small incidents which would have been meaningless to anyone except a man facing death."

The chaplain explained this as a belated attempt to straighten out a life which somewhere along the road had gotten on the wrong track.

The reaction of some is to become super-religious. One man prayed for deliverance until he imagined an opened window in the gray walls of the prison and freedom and a long life on the other side.

There was another who fainted when the guards came for him. He was unconscious when strapped in the chair, and died like that.

Wanted Chair Cleaned

One man did not mind being executed but had an aversion to sitting in the chair where others had died. He thought it would be a good idea to have the death seat cleaned. 3-11-44

Another victim, who maintained to the end that he was innocent, predicted to one of the witnesses his "burner" would become ill and vomit.

The prophecy came true.

The chaplain maintains that the half hours just before executions are always hardest for him.

"It seems," he said, "as if time stands still."

It is then he becomes something of a morale builder, talking words of courage to the condemned men.

For instance, he told Jefferson: "Son, when we leave this cell, remember I shall be right by your side. I shall pray, and don't expect to hear me say Amen, because you can't tell when it's going to strike."

So often during those last seconds the men sit rigid, tense—their hands clenched as though they are holding to his words, the chaplain explained.

Worked with Youth

For twenty-seven of his sixty-five years, the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt has worked directly with youth. Prior to his appointment as prison chaplain in 1917 by Gov. Walter E. Edge, he headed a youth center.

During the lifetime of the late Margaret D. Van Pelt, his wife, the couple made homes for forty-seven different boys and girls—this in addition to rearing three children of their own.

Both of the chaplain's daughters are married, and there are two grandchildren. 3-11-44

As he sat fondling 6-week-old Ann Edwards, one could not help wondering whether his trips to the chair with twenty men condemned to die have not increased his love for the innocence of children.

The Record's Clear

World — Memphis, Tenn.

Judge Camille Kelly spoke to the delegates to the 12th Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Conference of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs last Monday night at Centenary M. E. Church. 7-14-44

When she completed her address most of the scores of highly trained, intelligent, and very race-conscious Negro women leaders from eight of the South's largest states, joined in a spontaneous burst of applause, indicative of their endorsement of every word that the noted Juvenile Court jurist had uttered.

It must be admitted that Judge Kelley has a way with Negroes. Undoubtedly, if one should ask why, the answer would be that most Negroes are convinced that the Judge is a friend of their race.

Many a leading Negro of Memphis and elsewhere will point out that he or she 'goes all out for the Judge' because 'during her more than twenty years on the bench' in this area she has done many things directly beneficial to Negroes as such.

When the Detention Home at the Juvenile Court was constructed, the Judge insisted that habitable facilities for Negro children be added. She did this at a time when it was not the thing to do "to give little or big Negroes something or anything even approximating what was given to whites."

One may locate any number of scores of local Negroes who can and will relate instances in which the Judge has helped them to save their children or has enabled them to find a working means for living together, or otherwise adjust their differences.

It was the Judge who initiated a Sunday School program for delinquent Negro children at the Detention Home.

Judge Kelley has been so uniformly careful to be courteous to everyone entering her court, until in many instances, Negroes have not known just how to "figure her out." 7-14-44

In her Monday night speech the Judge unhesitatingly re-affirmed her position relative to the recent case of the Negro maid who whipped the white child she was nursing.

When the Judge got through most of the very race-conscious Negro women who heard her were joining in the vociferous applause which greeted the speech.

It seems that the crux of the matter is that Judge Kelley convinced her Negro audience that she is sincere in her convictions. She did not pull her punches. As a matter of fact she spoke in the same tone which has always been her wont. She did not speak apologetically. She spoke sincerely.

Her audience seemed to be carried away with the fact that she spoke as a friend, who, out of her convictions, was certain that her course is right. The Judge's sincerity captivated them.

It captivated all of her hearers. That is why this second editorial is written. It's purport is to say: "If Judge Kelley has done anything that Negroes might not like, she must have moved along lines which are not immediately discernible, but certainly not along lines which would in anyway suggest that the Negro has lost or has not possessed a very influential friend in very high places."

Law Catches Up With 18 Gangsters

World Telegram

From Harlem

New York N.Y.

7-19-44

Strong Measures Must Be Taken to Check Hoodlums, Says Judge

Eighteen members of Harlem's youthful gangs tangled with the law today.

Five of them came before Magistrate Raphael Koenig in Felony Court in a group. They had been arrested early today at Colonial Park and 154th St. and were members of the Sabres gang. One, Fred Irving Carter, 21, of 509 Lenox Ave., was charged with violating the Sullivan law and, police said, had threatened a man with a knife.

"The only purpose of these gangs is to engage in gang wars with other boys," the Magistrate declared. "This is a very serious matter, sometimes resulting in deaths. Strong measures must be taken."

He held Carter in $10,000 bail for the grand jury, reduced a charge of acting in concert against others to disorderly conduct and the fifth, alleged to be over to military police. 10 in which one man was killed and five others shot. Each of the nine were arrested following a gang fight near Colonial Park July

similarly reduced from various felonies to disorderly conduct. The gang called the Saints, who was and turned the deserter

Charges against nine others, members of the Sabres. Chancel-

7-19-44

Held in $10,000 Bail.

32-1944

Police Brake Up Teen Age Gang In City

World – Memphis, Tenn.

10-3-44

The failure or inability of some local Negro parents to keep track of the doings and whereabouts of their under-age children reached a disturbing climax last Friday with the Police arrest and jailing of five members of Negro teen-age gangs.

Juvenile Court authorities stated that other members of the organization are being sought and will be taken into custody.

Announcement of the breaking up of the gang was made by Police Chief of Detectives, M. A. Hinds, who revealed that the boys have committed a series of strong-arm robberies in the vicinity of Beale and Third in recent weeks.

Arrested by Patrolman Ritter and Chitwood three of the group of five boys were docketed on charges of housebreaking, larceny, and robbery while the other two were charged with robbery.

10-3-44

All the boys, ranging in age from 13 to 16, were turned over to Juvenile Court authorities. Four of the arrested boys have previous police records.

Two really serious cases in which the group has been involved include the Sept. 26 robbery of the Pan-Am Service Station at 475 Linden where a pistol was stolen and the strong-arm robbery of a Negro youth from whom they took two rings and a watch with a total value of $105. In the service station robbery gasoline coupons representing 500 gallons were declared missing, but the youths denied taking them.

10-3-44

Inspector Hinds was quoted as saying, "three of the group admitted to 15 strong-arm holdups, mostly from other boys, adding there were probably many more on which the Police Department has had no reports

A spokeman at the Juvenile Court said that no action is contemplated against the parents of the boys. But he pointed out the Juvenile Court's traditional procedure of trying to reclaim the boys to decent living will be made. Their parents will be consulted in the working out of a schedule to insure knowledge of the boys' whereabouts and activities each day. They will be supervised in their school attendance and prohibited from hanging around street corners. This, however, does not mean that they will not be punished for the crimes they have already confessed.

10-3-44

The names of the boys are not given here in deference to the Juvenile Court's practice of not unduly publicizing the names of juvenile delinquents when it can be avoided.

Boy Gangs of New York: 500 Fighting Units

12-10-44

Boys' conflict gangs demand strong loyalties. Can these qualities be turned to good account?

By BRADFORD CHAMBERS

Times Magazine

THERE are more than 500 conflict gangs of boys in New York City, boys banded together to fight other gangs. Every day somewhere in the city there are street battles between them. Often boys are stabbed, occasionally shot, sometimes killed.

New York, N.Y.

Gangs are an old story in New York. But today the activities of the boys and girls—for there are many girls' auxiliaries to these gangs—are inspired to some degree by racial and religious hatred, a manifestation of two of our most pressing social problems—juvenile delinquency and racial antagonism.

12-10-44

During the last year I have been trying to find out what is behind this racial gang warfare and what, if anything, can be done to combat it. For some time I had been working with the Friends of Democracy in New York, where reports kept coming in that the gang wars were being aggravated by fascist and Nazi sympathizers. I went to the gangs themselves for information. I hung around boys on street corners and in back alleys, offered them cigarettes, asked them what they had to gripe about, and invited them to my home. Gradually I was lucky enough to gain their confidence and friendship. I could find little evidence of subversive activities, but I did learn a lot of other interesting things.

The evolution of the gang out of the young people's natural play group is almost inevitable in certain communities. The conflict gang must not be confused with the loosely knit social or athletic club, or the street club, of which there are thousands, all comparatively harmless. The conflict gang aims to excel in battle with gangs of a different race or religion. Its greatest sport is a good fight. Such gangs exist because they provide security and excitement to their members in insecure surroundings. They satisfy the urge for adventure, a natural desire of all youth, and give opportunity for the exercise of loyalty to the group that is also strong among boys, even the bad ones. And a good many members of these fighting gangs have been in reformatories.

The ganglands I have come to know are in the borderline districts—neighborhoods situated between segregated communities of different race, creed or nationality. The dominant attitude here is one of fear, suspicion and antagonism. The young people, above all else, lack security and constructive direction. The gangs in these communities have primarily one purpose—protective security.

IN the case of the white communities, protection is sought from the Negroes who are being crowded out of their segregated areas. The Negro gangs in turn fight them. In some sections Catholic gangs fight Jews, and the Jews fight Catholic and Protestant gangs. There are Italian, Spanish and Puerto Rican gangs, which fight one another for various reasons.

12-10-44

Though the size of the gangs varies considerably, their organization is fairly uniform. Members range in age from 11 to 17 years. Many of the boys left school before finishing or are confirmed truants. Each gang has its name (often printed on the shirt), its leader and its hang-out —a street corner, alleyway or cellar. Cellar hang-outs are much scarcer than they were before the war, as the police have hedged them with many restrictions.

Gang leaders are generally called "captains" and are almost invariably chosen on the basis of personality and physical prowess. A captain must be bold and successful in combat, a "big shot." He must also be a "right guy." In most gangs major questions are submitted to a vote, and the captain may be overruled, but not if he has the personality to be a real leader. And this mere fact of the gang as a group yielding to majority rule is one of the little things that indicates how fundamental this need of group association is in boys, and how it might be turned to good account.

12-10-44

In conflict and out of conflict the gang acts as one. Solidarity is one of the gang's strongest features. Fear of being ridiculed or kicked out of the gang, and a keen desire to be looked up to by fellow-members, compel uniformity to the wishes of the gang, no matter what outsiders may say. Unlucky is the boy who does not show up for a designated battle.

Some gangs are highly organized. The "Chancellors" in Harlem, for example, are divided into definite sections—Tiny Tims, Midgets or Cubs, Juniors and Seniors—ranging from 7 through the 'teens. One gang also divides its members into "fighters," who beat up members of opposing gangs on sight; "maybe-fighters," who give battle only in arranged forays, and "peacefuls," who fight only when the gang is attacked. The purpose is to gain such a fighting name that no other group will ever dare start anything. It is like these weapons are nothing to joke about. Clubs and knives, usually fish called knives, are the most common. To use a knife on another boy is to "mess him up," or "shank" him. Brass knuckles are the "topsy" or "shank" him. Brass knuckles, for (ash or garbage can handles), crude blackjacks (sometimes made in school workboys' shops), pieces of broken bottles and ice picks are also handy weapons.

12-10-44

But the boys show remarkable ingenuity in making their guns. They use a four-inch piece of pipe with an opening

Alternatives to corner meetings—discussion groups or adventures in the field of science

large enough to take a .22-caliber bullet, and fasten the pipe to a block of wood with wire or tape. Then a firing pin is made from another piece of metal, and the metal of which the pin is a part is pulled back against the pressure of a heavy rubber band, the other end of which goes around the forward end of the block to which the tube is fastened. When the band is released the firing pin strikes the cartridge with sufficient force to explode it and send a bullet two or three blocks. The guns are usually used at short range, where they are reasonably accurate and deadly. Boys have been killed with these things.

I have seen several battles, one that might truly be called a planned blitz. I happened to be on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 122d Street with six Negro boys, members of the Buccaneers, an athletic gang who had been playing baseball earlier.

I HAD been talking with the Buccaneers for about an hour and was just leaving when four white boys, no more than 12 years old, rushed by and grabbed the baseball bat. The Buccaneers, seeing that they were older and that they outnumbered their attackers, gave chase, yelling, "Let's beat the hell out of those white skunks." In the middle of the next block the fleeing boys (from the Midget division of the Robbins, a white gang) were caught.

At once from two corners of the intersection streamed ten or more Robbin Seniors. Simultaneously cans filled with pebbles and ashes toppled from the roof tops on both sides of the street. The six Negroes turned to flee, but escape had been cut off. From the opposite side of the street came more Robbins, and what appeared to be a massacre was on. Soon, however, hearing the racket, a brother gang of the trapped Buccaneers came to the rescue. The fight that resulted was definitely not play. By the time military police, who happened to be in the district, broke up the fight more than thirty boys had participated.

"We'll get them yet," screamed one of the Robbins, as I dragged him against his will to a drug store for treatment of a badly slashed face. I asked the only policeman in the neighborhood if he had made any arrests.

"Look," he said, "I'm on night duty and this is a pretty common occurrence. If I arrest these kids I have to appear in court tomorrow to bring charges. That's extra time for me and I don't get paid for it."

GANG warfare is not a summer pastime. Nor is it confined to boys. The girl auxiliaries are trained by the boy members of some gangs. They make vicious fighters and have the boys' respect. One of their weapons is a more than adequate vocabulary. They also serve as decoys to waylay the gang's enemies.

To the gang, to fight is to be tough; to be tough brings respect and power. But gangs can be utilized for worth-while ends. In fact, because of their influence, gangs can become real preventive forces against delinquency and crime. For, with all their anti-social points, gang philosophy has hidden in it the worthwhile elements of leadership, discipline, initiative, spirit and loyalty. If we were to make use of these characteristics and redirect the gang into constructive activities, then their influence on their satellites would be as great as before but it would be a constructive pattern the gang would set in its community.

WHAT can be done for them? Some of these boys are undoubtedly hopeless. They will always be toughs, and many of them will be criminals. They have gone too far to conform to a new pattern. But the majority of them can be helped. They all come from poor homes; poverty is one thing they have in common. But whereas some of their homes are repulsive, others are neat and clean, and the parents in these better homes do their best to guide their sons and daughters, but without much influence against the gang spirit.

It has been suggested that a start might be made by forming athletic and civic leagues in a few small communities in the city, leagues which would be associations of the existing gangs. We must keep their group organization, and let the boys themselves govern it, without imposing too much authority on them from the top, something they resent. And what they do must be made exciting to attract them.

Each community would have a store or other suitable meeting place as headquarters for its local league. Members of the league would meet here with older district leaders to decide on their activities. Tournaments within the league, block parties, civic and other activities could be developed. And of great value would be a larger meeting place where these leagues could meet together to discuss their affairs, and listen to persons they respect, star athletes, baseball and football players and boxers. Motion pictures of college and professional games could be shown.

THE local organization, or league, would express itself through a weekly newspaper, written largely by the boys themselves, for they dearly love publicity. The paper would criticize and make constructive suggestions. If they had their own paper, published by their own organization, it would be anticipated reading material each week. And the possibilities of reaching and arousing the parents and the general public through these leagues would spread all over the city.

In one or two communities ways can be worked out to reach most of the tough boys, and, if successful, such a dramatic enterprise are also many.

It can be done.

32-1944

FBI Official, At Girl Scout Luncheon, Puts Blame For Delinquency On Faulty Parents

Age—New York, N.Y.

11-11-44

Helping launch the annual Girl Scout Contributors Campaign at the Waldorf Astoria Monday, Arthur H. Crowl, assistant special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declared that "before any child has broken the law, some adult has committed a more serious crime, some parent has been negligent in his responsibility or some social agency has failed to fulfill completely its purpose."

"A recent bulletin issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed that . . . the arrest of girls 18 years old increased 54 percent over 1942. The arrest of girls under 21 years of age in 1943 for crimes involving common decency increased nearly 60 percent over 1942. And in 1942 there was a 130 percent increase in the arrests of girls under 21 over the same period in 1941."

Acknowledging that the cause may be traced to the abnormal conditions brought about by war, with parents on war jobs separated for long hours from the home and youth leaders forced to be away from their communities, Mr. Crowl pointed out that it is nevertheless "the solemn obligation of the adult generation to guide and direct our children along the proper path of life. When an adult place anything ahead of that responsibility, it is akin to criminal negligence."

Mr. Crowl referred to the record of the Scout organization in providing guidance and a wholesome program of activities for girls, and emphatically stressed that "we as parents and good citizens not only must give the movement our complete support but we must urge our community to do the same."

11-11-44

Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, who is vice-president of the Girl Scouts and chairman of the Public Relations Division, was credited by Mrs. Douglas Gibbons, campaign chairman and presiding chairman of the afternoon, with helping to establish the present goal of $225,000 and Scouting for 40,000 New York girls. In addressing the audience of over 400 friends of Scouting, Mrs. Sulzberger stated that here is an organization so popular with the young girls of the city that "we do not recruit them but have a waiting list of 8,000 girls between the ages of 7 and 18 — that age causing such concern to our authorities, parents and citizens."

Uptown Rape Gang Nabbed For Attack Of Young Matron

Informer—Houston, Texas

11-18-44

By JOHN BLAIR

NEW ORLEANS — When an Informer-Sentinel writer exposed the uptown rendezvous of a teen-aged rape gang on April 1, 1944, perhaps many persons regarded the matter lightly and it is certain that very little, if any, action has been taken to curb the practice in the neighborhood which was reported.

Two weeks ago, the wife of a prominent citizen was the victim of the lustful young thugs and on Monday, three youngsters were arrested in connection with the crime.

Those under arrest were identified by Detectives Edmond Scanlon and Walter Klemmer as Willie Jackson, 18, 1910 Jackson avenue; Herman Davis, 18, 2235 Loyola avenue; and Eddie Sanford, 19, no local address. It has been reported that they confessed to the crime.

11-18-44

The latest assault occurred, according to records, about three blocks from the rendezvous, described some time ago in the columns of the Informer newspaper, or just outside the boundaries of the Magnolia Housing project.

Described as a secluded rendezvous in which several women and girls have been attacked, the main operating point of the rape gang had been in a triangular-shaped stretch of land, bounded by the Freret street side of Flint-Goodridge's fence and laundry, Toledano and Freret streets.

Since April 1, however, conditions have not grown better, but according to some residents, have grown worse. One reason given is that the volunteer watchman service donated by Mr. Oliver Moret, a former resident of the Magnolia Project, has ceased since Mr. Moret moved to another section. Another reason is that the young gangsters have little regard for the watchman placed there to guard the project armed with nothing except a wooden club.

11-18-44

It is reported that the approach of winter is bringing new fear to early morning church-goers, especially women, who were the prey of young gangsters last winter.

Modern Program Set Up at Girls' Training School

Afro-American—Balt., Md.

12-31-44

WASHINGTON

Hope of developing a keener interest of civic leaders in the plight of delinquent girls at the National Training School for Girls was expressed this week by the newly appointed superintendent, Mrs. Rose Cooper Smith.

"My interest in the school dates back to a visit there last summer," said Mrs. Smith, "when I saw the acute need of a program that would consider the needs of adolescent girls as individuals and as members of a group.

"The school should not be a place for punishment, but should offer a program of rehabilitation," she added, "and in such a program, type of human surroundings provided is most important.

"I have been impressed with the favorable attitude of the Board of Public Welfare toward the school."

12-30-44

Gains and Needs Cited

Among the improvements cited by Mrs. Smith are the employment of an assistant superintendent who is a graduate of a school of social work, and a parole officer, the establishment of the position of chief matron, and reclassification of all custodial matron positions to a higher grade; appointment of a trained recreational director, and the recommendation of expenditure of $10,000 toward badly needed improvements.

"Since the recreational program is new, such things as piano, ping-pong tables, athletic equipment, and indoor games are needed," Mrs. Cooper said. "Several of the girls have potential talent in drawing, voice, and music, which volunteer instruction would help to develop."

Va. Union Graduate

Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Virginia Union University, Bishop Tuttle School of Social Work, and the New York School of Social Work. She has also had special training in psychiatric social work at the Neurological Institute, Medical Center, New York.

MRS. ROSE C. SMITH

She served as executive secretary of the Friends' Association for Colored Children of Richmond, Va., and developed the program there from an orphanage to a child-placing agency, which was the first colored agency admitted to membership in the Child Welfare League of America.

BOY GANG WAR FLARES IN N.Y.

Defender—Chicago

5-27-44 Ill.

NEW YORK (ANP)—Enmity between two gangs of youths—one from Harlem and the other from the Negro section of the Bronx—flared Friday night into pistol play ending with four youths in Lincoln hospital, suffering gunshot wounds and stabbing, while three others were arrested by police.

The rival gangs, known as the "Comaiches" and the "Sultans," had long had bad blood between them. Things came to the fighting point late Friday night, when 15-year-old Henry Cox was taking two girls to the Bronx. He was spotted by Bronx members of the rival gang, set upon, sought to run, was felled by a shot from a .45 calibre automatic which struck him in the back, driving through to his intestines.

Hospital attaches stated that his condition is fair, but he is on "critical," which means that he is still in danger.

After the shooting of young Cox, Harlem members of his gang, enraged, went trooping to the Bronx in search of the rival gang members who had shot the lad. They found Connie Kidley, 20, and quickly stabbed him in the left chest.

They found Albert Tompkins, 21, who was uncovered by the Harlemites. In short order, Tompkins suffered a stab wound in the left shoulder. Harry Richard, 16, was the next victim. He was beaten, kicked, stabbed. The three youths are in Lincoln hospital, none in serious condition.

5-27-44

Three others were arrested by police in search of guilty members of both gangs. The mother of the boy believed to have done the shooting of young Cox was herself arrested when she created a disturbance in police precinct chambers. The accused lad is Harold Simmons, 17. He is being held without bail by Bronx police.

THE CALL
Kansas City, Mo.
12-8-44

32

Boy, 10, Sets Fire To Chicago Homes.

'Getting Even With Negroes.'

Chicago.- (ANP)- Notwithstanding the fact that housing quarters comprise a premium here, a 10-year-old white boy felt last week that he could do his share toward further depriving northside Negroes of their already too few homes, by setting flames to three buildings in that area. The boy, Danny Waistbort, a truant, called himself "getting even with some of the colored boys" for "beating me up".

Victims of the fire were a elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ivet, the greatest their entire ear kitchen wall in their second floor apartment caused by the fire. The Ivets had

flames caused her to seek shelter amon friends.

The third set of victims were Mr. and Mrs. John Edmundson who were fortunate enough to see the boy toss a can of oil on their basement steps, set fire to the mass and flee. A neighbor, who also witnessed the act pointed the boy out to the police matron as he stood observing his experiment.

Though Danny Beisttort Jr. first told police that was the "lookout" for his "fire club", which went about stealing gasoline and candles to start the fire, he later confessed that the club story was just a tale which he made up.

Commenting on the boy's record, Officer Murray, juvinile department, recalled that "had been truant for sometime. Instead of going to school he would go to a movie and stay for six hours then the next day, he'd double back to the same show and stay for even hours or more. 12-8-44

N. Y. Educator Attacks Race Friction, Juvenile Problem In New York

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa.

12-2-44

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—(ANP)—The gigantic task of making a single-handed attack on race friction and juvenile delinquency here has been assigned to Mrs. Vinotta Thompson, assistant in intercultual education to Dr. Regina C. M. Burke, associate superintendent of elementary schools. Mrs. Thompson is stationed at Public School No. Three, located in one of the condemned areas of Kings county.

With her work ranging all the way from dealing with working mothers, apathetic teachers, underprivilege children, bigoted bullies, counteracting biased text books and anti-democratic propaganda, Mrs. Thompson explained that the neighborhood where her school is located is loosely organized.

"Most of the people are not even aware of the public facilities open to them," she said. "Many come from the south where they were not welcomed in the schools and other public places."

NO RACIAL FRICTION

However, she discovered that racial friction is not the principal problem at P. S. Three. There are only 30 white children among 1,800 Negroes and they seem to be happy and well adjusted, she revealed. Juvenile delinquency is high in the area where her school is located. The people are the victims of poverty and discrimination.

While many of the churches have auditoriums and club rooms, even a bowling alley, a survey of the neighborhood showed that there is no large playground or youth center in the vicinity. The public library in the neighborhood was forced to close recently because of low circulation. 12-2-44

Mrs. Thompson's initial procedure of attacking her problems is by an exhibition of photographs, books and magazines about Negro life in the United States. She acquaints the children with Paul Robeson, George Washington Carver, Duke Ellington and other outstanding Negro leaders as well as with people of other races.

Her task is to erase the blot placed on that community by a King's county grand jury last fall when it said that "a most unusual and extremely deplorable state of lawlessness existed in that area and that many school children had been beaten, robbed and otherwise mistreated."

Harlem Youth Honest, Law-Abiding, Says Assaulted Teacher's Principal

People's Voice—New York, N. Y.

By LLEWELLYN RANSOM

Although 65-year-old Mrs. Eleanor O'Connell, one of the oldest and most liked teachers of P.S. 46 at St. Nicholas ave. and 156th st., lay in Murray Hill Hospital suffering from shock and brain concussion as a result of an attack Nov. 6th by three of the school's students, Principal Felix Arnold refused to be stampeded into smearing Harlem children by the daily press. 11-18-44

Dr. Arnold, listed in Who's Who, author of several books, Columbia PhD, and former student of Thorndike, Dewey, Adler, and other famous educators, explained that these three attackers represented only one-fifth of one per cent of the student body and did not warrant any generalizations against Harlem's youth.

Mrs. O'Connell was struck on the head as she was walking in the corridor carrying a few dollars in dimes she had collected from children of working parents who are provided with 10 cent lunches. She has taught at PS 46 for 40 years and according to the principal she has had no serious discipline problems during his seven years at PS 46. The boys were not her pupils, and she was struck from behind. Letters of sympathy and regret have been coming from her former pupils. Mrs. O'Connell not only spent 40 years teaching and helping her pupils but she had raised four childreen not her own.

The president of the Parent Teachers Group, Mrs. Hilda Walker, criticized the school for permitting the boys to remain there since they had previous records. Two of those boys had been convicted of stealing from a garage. 11-18-44

Mrs. Hilda Walker and Mrs. Evelyn Thomas, another parent, said the problem of children roaming the halls had become so great that the parents formed a patrol to watch the halls. They had high praise for the teaching staff. Others criticize the Board of Education for failing to provide means of separating serious problem cases from the regular student body and feared these very boys may be returned to PS 46.

Dr. Arnold, who has been teaching for 30 years and who has been principal of five or six other schools, said he has had less trouble at PS 46 than he has had at other schools as far as morale and student conduct goes. He says his substitute teachers remain year after year, even though they have been in great demand since the war. 11-18-44

Although there was normal quiet through the building as Dr. Arnold escorted the unexpected PV reporter through the building, there was an uninhibited air about the teachers and pupils in the hallways and class rooms. They met the principal with a personal, friendly manner, chatted freely and demonstrated their little projects. Lunch hour and dismissal period showed no disorder or confusion, and at no time was a teacher's voice raised or any special monitoring evident.

Asked how it was done, Dr. Arnold explained his three basic aims: to see that the children are happy; that they maintain their self respect and they are encouraged to try. He holds court when there is trouble. The accused faces the accuser and the child is permitted to have its say. He said this is the first school where parents come to hear both sides without the attitude that their child is perfect.

About to leave the school after everyone else had gone, Dr. Arnold discovered an expensive movie camera had been left on a hall table and that a penknife lay in full view on a piano. He remarked that this was some evidence that the kids of Harlem are normally as honest as the average child. 11-18-44

Dr. Arnold's proposed program for a gymnasium, showers, more play space has been held up by war priorities. He makes special appeals to the parents to cooperate with the school's dental, eye, speech, hearing and general health clinics.

TEEN-AGE MAID FOUND IN HOTEL ROOM WITH WHITE SOLDIERS

8-18-44

A teen-aged Negro girl employee entered a room where two white [illegible] a down-town hotel was dismissed soldiers were, and remained in the from service this week following room with the door closed for two charges of intimate relations with or more hours. Groups of maids and white soldiers in the hotel rooms other Negro employes began to gather in small groups and discuss the The story leaked out from a group matter. Finally, one of the Bell- of Negro employes of the Hotel men reported the situation to the Peabody who described the incident house detective. 8-18-44 but did not want their names used. The detective investigated. He The charges were brought against found the door to the room locked. her by members of the Negro staff of the hotel. The girl, who worked as a maid in the hostelry, had been noticed several times by the other maids. Some of them were convinced in their suspicions that the girl was acting strangely around the white men guests at the hotel. Several of the other maids expressed their resentment over her actions, and warned the girl over and warned the girl would report her.

When questioned she is said to have remarked that she would rat- tle on her fellow employes dis- closing this allegation in the hope that her previous conduct would be overlooked by the hotel officials. The girl had been employed only a few days. But her actions only knew her counted things that had been stolen. The girl had said that had been supplied by the Negro employes only when she came from Detroit, Michigan 8-18-44

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When questioned she is said to have remarked that she would rat- tle on her fellow employes dis- closing this allegation in the hope that her previous conduct would be overlooked by the hotel officials. The girl had been employed only a few days. But her actions only knew her counted things that had been stolen. The girl had said that had been supplied by the Negro employes only when she came from Detroit, Michigan

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had threatened to jump on her for her actions. She is also reported to have charged that she had been

Last Monday afternoon the show- down came when the young maid

32-1944

Facts and Fancies

Tribune—Philadelphia, Pa.

BY EUSTACE GAY

Gang Warfare

10-14-44

Negro juvenile delinquency is no greater than among whites and is partly a result of oppression, the Rev. Ralph A. Gallagher, S. J., regent of the school of social work of Loyola University, and the Rev. Gerald O. McDonald, S. J., of the Jesuit Institute of Social Order, St. Louis, told a Chicago audience last month.

"We're upset when we see Negro boys and girls in court," Father Gallagher said, "but we forget that many of them are hauled before a judge because unlike white children, they do not have so many social agencies to help them, and are thrown upon the mercy of the courts."

10-14-44

"These children," the Jesuit educator continued, "are fundamentally no different from the white young people and, given adequate opportunity, they will respond. Physically, mentally, morally and even spiritually they are deprived of opportunity." His concluding statement was: "Negro youth are DEPRIVED, not DEPRAVED."

Father McDonald was equally frank. "Negro delinquency," he told his hearers, "is largely present because of white citizens' dereliction of duty. The white person who allows his Negro prejudice to interfere with Negro rights is sinning not only against society but also against God. Don't forget that Negro rights, which are the same as ours, come not from society but from God, just as do our own."

10-14-44

I have gone to such length to quote from these two Jesuit educators, because within recent weeks there has been an outbreak of gang warfare here, in which white boys were either beaten to death or killed by other white boys—no colored boys involved in any way.

The Crime Prevention Unit here was quoted in a local daily newspaper as having expressed surprise that there were any gang feuds existing between white boys in the areas where the incidents occurred. Of course, they KNEW about the colored gangs, but one boy had to be killed and another almost beaten to death before they KNEW about the white gangs.

Here we have another illustration of the fallacy of "race." Crime Prevention units are so busy fastening the stigma of gangsterism on colored children and, through them, on the law-abiding colored element of the population, that they could not see what was going on in their own racial group; a perfect example of attempting to remove the splinter from someone else's eye, while there was a joist in his.

10-14-44

It is time law enforcement agencies stop emphasizing the "race" angle to crime. Experienced detectives know that ALL the real gangs among adults are or were white—the Dillingers, Touhy,s Barkers, etc: and white and colored, are but emulating the bad example set by these adults—an example which is sometimes glamorized by the movies.

All is not hopeless when authorities in the field of social work, men of the standing of Fathers Gallagher and McDonald, have the courage to speak the truth; and, don't forget, they were talking to an audience of 2000, with the colored persons present few in number; they were speaking the truth where it meant something to tell it.

I WRITE AS I SEE

BY ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

Tribune—Philadelphia, Pa.

OUR YOUTH COME FIRST

10-7-44

NO PEOPLE CAN hope to endure if its young folk are deficient in the qualities which make for progress. But neither is there much hope for the young folk, if their adults pay them little mind.

It is easy for oldsters to point the finger of scorn at youth and criticize them for being superficial, trifling, lazy and even vicious, but in the final analysis the answer to all the questions may be resolved in one over-all question, "What are we adults doing for our youth?"

Daily I run into evidence of youth-neglect. The only assumption is that no one is caring much in the home. It is not unusual to see youngsters, boys and girls, not yet ten years of age, running the streets at all hours of the night. Teen age boys and girls by the hundreds embarrass us by their unruly conduct in public conveyances, in motion picture houses, restaurants, and other public places. They have practically no sense of the fitness of things, and act as if the feelings of elders were of no account whatever.

10-7-44

We are informed that the major centers like Town Hall, Turner's and Fleisher Auditoriums, etc., where our boys and girls were accustomed to hold dances accompanied by prominent bands, have about closed their doors to our youth, so difficult have become the problems arising from pillage, wanton destruction of property, gun fights and slashings, and just about every conceivable kind of rowdiness.

HOMELIFE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE

Where is our homelife? Is it impossible for parents to work and also to take care of their children? Should mothers stay at home and instruct their young ones? Or is it that our boys and girls are different from other boys and girls?

No, our young ones are not any different from the others In fact the problem with our youth is hardly any greater than that for all youth generally, but we cannot take much satisfaction out of that fact. The truth remains that we adults are doing all too little for our young folk, and there is not much time to be lost.

10-7-44

Our youth is suffering from a serious malady. We adults have done almost nothing to diagnose the causes, much less to remedy the disease. Can we hope for the progress of the Negro under these conditions, even if we do get a Congressman or two, a number of legislators and city councilmen, and a host of other job-holders? I think not.

10-7-44

LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS

It is high time that we tens of thousands of parents and interested adults join hands and heads in order to systematically treat this chronic malady. No consideration transcends that of our youth. Better homes, improved working conditions, more enlightened schools, superior recreational facilities, and a more constructive point of view regarding the possibilities of youth in the developing future are crying necessities in order to arouse in our young folk the desire to achieve first-class citizenship and to measure up to its responsibilities.

We can spend a great deal of time, energy and money electing Roosevelt or Dewey, getting equal rights bills or poll-tax, establishing a permanent FEPC and revoking the poll-tax for every citizen—but if in our homes and providing a job for every citizen—but if in our homes and related institutions the fundamental issues of providing proper conditions for the development of our youth are sidetracked and ignored—all these others will have been in vain. You cannot ignore obvious logic. LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

If we want to put a crimp in the jitterbug complex, we will have to provide an environment which offershold-ups by Negro youths something more thrilling and constructive to our youth than jitterbugging. That's all there is to that.

10-7-44

Muggings Aroused City College; Students Warned to Avoid Park

11-1-44

Boys Robbed on Way to Subway—No Racial Motive Involved, Says Dean—Own Police Force for Institution Is Suggested

Dr. Bergstresser declared yesterday that he felt it "advisable for students not to use the route through the park, especially if alone," and that he was considering sending a form letter templating around to the classrooms urging students to walk to the 145th Street station of the Independent Subway.

The shortest route to the subway from the college is through a pathway in St. Nicholas Park leading to the 137th Street station, and it was on this path that the muggings took place. The attackers,

11-1-44

man of the Department of Student Life, to warn students against St. Nicholas Park, adjacent to the school, where Convent five or six attacks on students has led have been made during the last two weeks.

Dr. John L. Bergstresser,

all Negro boys in their teens, usually approach the student, the dean said, with the question: "Have you got a nickel?"

If the student reaches into his pocket from either generosity or fearfulness, he must either fight his way out of the park or surrender his money after a severe beating. In the case of one student, his books were torn up when his assailents discovered he had no money.

One boy was chased from the park entrance after receiving several blows and found safety only on reaching the chemistry building on the campus.

Another favorite approach, according to the dean, is: "Have you got a watch?"

One victim replied yes to the question and immediately lost his watch. 11-1-44

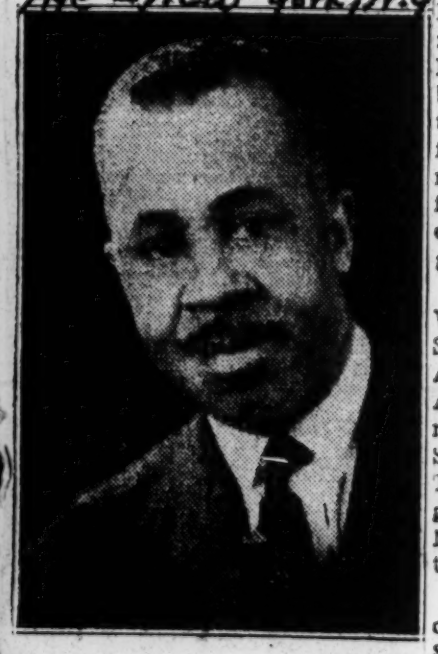
Since another victim was a Negro, Dr. Berstresser pointed out that the "epidemic" had nothing to do with "race trouble" but was a matter of stealing.

He reported that two arrests had already been made and the attackers were being held.

Oscar Buckvar, a member of the college's Government Department, said that he felt the school should have its own police.

On Executive Staff

Age - New York, N.Y.



NATHANIEL A. BURRELL

Nathaniel A. Burrell Appointed Executive Secretary Of The JWC

5-4-44

Nathaniel A. Burrell, probation officer, Manhattan Children's Court, has been appointed, as of April 15, Executive Secretary of the Juvenile Welfare Council, Harlem Branch of the Bureau For the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency of the Children's Court, New York City, of which Judge Stephen S. Jackson is the director.

Mr. Burrell, a social worker in Harlem for 25 years and a veteran officer of World War 1, has just completed the organization of the First Junior Guardsman Regiment of the 15th New York Guard. On last Thursday night, he spoke to over 200 boys at P. S. 51 in the Bronx where the 42nd Precinct Coordinating Council plans to start and form a second Junior Guardsmen Regiment, soon. He is also the founder-president of the Harlem Big Brothers Association; formerly a West 135th Street Branch YMCA Secretary for 10 years he is now serving on their Boys' Work Committee; member of the Trustee Board of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

5-6-44

In keeping with the Governor's proclamation of National Boys and Girls week ending May 6th, Colonel Burrell will take all of the members of the Junior Guardsman Regiment to the West 135th Street Branch Public Library on Friday night, May 5th, where as guests of Mrs. Dorothy Homer, Librarian, the boys will see a special moving picture followed by a lecture designed for Children. Caswell A. Evans, now on loan to the Juvenile Welfare Council from the Department of Welfare, will assist with the program for the boys.

Other members of the Juvenile Welfare Council staff under Judge S. J. Jackson, are Mrs. Araminta Anthony, formerly of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, Police Department, but now with the Children's Court. She is the supervisor of the Harlem Toyery. Also, Miss Marie Marangillo, Mrs. Gladys Burke Johnson, Mrs. Ogda J. Jonnson on loan from the Department of Welfare.

5-6-44

Mrs. Gertrude Bolden, formerly of the Juvenile Welfare Council Staff has been returned to the Department of Welfare, where she has been appointed supervisor of the Household Training Project, 325 East 38th street.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Defender — Chicago, Ill.

By WALTER WHITE

IN TIMES like these, life moves at so furious a pace that even a brief absence from one's accustomed life makes apparent when one returns the changes which have taken place. Most disturbing and tragic of the latter which I have noted after being out of the United States only a little over three months is the terrible increase in Anti-Semitism among certain thoughtless Negroes.

6-17-44

Walter White

A few days ago Mrs. White asked me to see a Jewish couple from whom she has bought food and vegetables for many years. The husband could not leave the store but the wife, a well-dressed and very intelligent and well-read woman, came to the house to tell us the story. She is distinctly leftish in her political thinking and, like so many Jews, past and present, has an inexhaustible zeal to do whatever can be done to make this a more decent world.

Steal Box Of Strawberries

A FEW days ago, the couple and their studious, frail, 16-year-old son were closing the store for the day. Suddenly a gang of 14 and 15-year-old Negro boys rushed into the store, seized a box of strawberries and, yelling like young Indians, ran out of the store. The proprietor followed them into a hallway nearby where the boys and a group of girls of about the same age cursed him, the mildest of their epithets being "dirty Jew". When he returned to his store, the crowd of young hoodlums augmented by others rushed in and began to pillage and destroy fruit and vegetables. Several of the boys began beating him, breaking his glasses and inflicting other damage. As the melee proceeded, a six-foot Negro jumped off a street car and rushed in to join in the beating of the proprietor, cursing him meanwhile for "attacking little boys." Police had to be called to quell the riot.

6-17-44

An Irish policeman to whom the Jewish couple appealed for protection ignored their appeal, dismissing the episode with the statement, "What else do you expect giving 'liberty' and 'equality' to people like these." Other shopkeepers in the neighborhood are chuckling with glee because the Jewish couple had refused to join in derogatory remarks about "niggers" and had defended Negroes as being the equal of any other race.

One Of The 'Milder Cases'

AND THIS is but one of the milder of the cases I have heard. One day a six-year-old Jewish boy was standing in front of his house in the Bronx waiting for his mother. I am told that a group of 14 and 15-year-old colored boys passed, one of them saying in a friendly tone, "Hello sonny." As he spoke, he passed his hand over the child's face. In his hand was a razor-sharp knife. The boy wil be disfigured for life. 6-17-44

Jewish boys are not the sole victims. Recently a gang of young hoodlums caught a six-year-old colored boy, stuffed his ears with concrete and held him until it had hardened.

It is not enough for us to say the true and obvious thing about such conditions in too many American cities — that these youngsters are products of the depression years, that they have no stimulus in the hope of jobs or other advantages to make better citizens of themselves, or that it is the fault of others and not our own.

Nor is the answer to be found in a policeman's billy or in jails and reformatories as some Negroes and whites maintain.

Negroes Themselves, Must Help

THE REMEDY is to be found in the correction of conditions which embitter and deny hope to Negroes and, equally, in Negroes themselves working to correct the situation. One of the immediate obligations which face us is the rooting out of the anti-Semitism which is indubitably growing among Negroes. 6-17-44

The most suicidal course which any minority in the United States or in the world today could pursue is that of hating or oppressing another minority. That is precisely what the Nazis, the Ku Kluxers and the Bourbons are aiming at — to get us fighting each other so that, estranged from and antagonistic to the other, each minority will be easier prey. This is a job which cannot wait to be done. It must be done right now.

32-1944

Girl 9, Slain in School; 2 Mates, 11 and 12, Held

Herald-Telegram-New York, N.Y.

5-9-44

Approximately 150 children were playing in the recreation room of Public School 119, at 255 W. 133rd St., at 11 a. m. today and three teachers were watching with smiling approval. Only one girl did not participate in the fun. She was Margaret Patton, 9, Negro, of 55 W. 137th St., a fourth grader. She sat quietly on a bench, resting because of an illness.

Then, suddenly, without warning, two masked figures, evidently schoolmates, burst into the room—to be greeted with laughs. It was some sort of joke, the children thought. 5-9-44

But the figures, moving on silently, disregarded everybody—the 150 laughing children, the smiling teachers—and made for the little girl sitting on the bench.

Cry of Fright.

The girl looked up, and a smile formed on her lips, to fade into a muffled cry of fright as one of the masked figures fiercely grabbed her arms and bent her struggling body over the bench.

And the other, drawing a sharp letter opener from the folds of her dress, began to slash viciously at the struggling child—slashed until she slumped to the floor.

Then, with children screaming hysterically and the teachers trying to maintain some semblance of control, the masked figures fled. In the hysteria someone called the police. 5-9-44

They found the school in an uproar and the life rapidly ebbing out of the fallen child. She was bundled into an ambulance, but died on arrival at Harlem Hospital.

Had Been Feuding.

Armed with descriptions of the two masked figures, described as Negro girls of 11 and 12, who had been feuding with their victim for several months, police rushed to the home of one, at 237 W. 133rd St. They weren't there, but as police were leaving they spotted a bonfire, and in an areaway near the blaze they saw a child's foot poking through an airshaft.

Hearing the police, the girls ran, but were quickly captured and taken to the W. 135th St. station, where, according to police, they soon admitted the stabbing.

The bonfire interrupted by police contained, they said, the two black masks, the murder knife, which had been stolen several hours earlier from a classroom, and report cards and school books which had also been stolen.

Warned She'd Tell.

Earlier, according to police, the dead girl had witnessed the theft of the school supplies from the classrooms, and had warned the two as they were leaving:

"I'm going to tell the teacher."

With a snarling retort, the two girls left with their loot, and on the way to one of the girl's home, one—the one who wielded the knife, according to police—said to the other: 5-9-44

"Let's kill somebody. Let's kill so we can be sent to some home to live. They don't treat me right at home."

The sequel, police said, followed within the hour. It was the final episode, they said, in a feud which began last September, when the dead girl's brother reportedly cut one of the two older girls with a piece of glass.

The younger of the two girls wielded the knife, according to police. Arrested on a homicide charge, she became at 11 the youngest person to ever face such a charge in New York County, according to the district attorney's office. The older girl, 12, was arrested on a juvenile delinquency charge. Both were taken to the Children's Shelter in Brooklyn.

Investing In Our Youth

Judge Garland Watkins, in commenting upon the sharp increase of delinquent cases, reported that more delinquent cases were before Juvenile Court in 1943 than ever before in his 22 years as judge.

Without attempting to account for the unusual decline between Negro and white delinquents, the judge's figures make interesting reading, nevertheless. In the case of white boys the increase in 1943 over 1942 was 37 per cent. In the same period, the increase among Negro boys was 14 per cent. The increase among white girl delinquents was 33 per cent, for Negro girls, 5 per cent. Only in one other year, he said, did the number of white boys exceed the number of Negro boys.

In both Negro and white delinquents, it was noted that juvenile delinquency is greatly on the increase. A small decline was noted in the case of Negro boys and girls. Yet taken in comparison with fears previously, the decline represents a much larger increase than is conducive to a wholesome outlook. Seriously, Atlanta, both for our white and colored youths, needs to initiate some far-reaching character-building program, whereby our youths might be led into genuine expression of their excess energy and a fuller utilization of their leisure-time activities. If for none other than enlightened self-interest, Negro citizens should do their level best to strengthen the work of the Boy and Girl Scout Movements. They should support the appeals of the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations. In fact, we not only support every uplift organizatoin we have working to build character in our youths, but we should do more. We should begin at once to institute and organize other such movements for the right use of leisure-time activities on the part of these boys and girls. We should invest in their future.

Investigation Is Difficult In Cases Of Illigitimacy

Post-Birmingham, Ala.

5-30-44 By Argyle S. Copeland

Cases of Protestant unwed mothers handled by the Children's Aid Society of Jefferson County decreased in 1943 as compared with 1942, according to the annual report given by Mrs. Alvice M. Sharpe, executive secretary.

The effect of the war has not yet been reflected in an increase in unmarried mother cases, Mrs. Sharpe said, as shown by the 92 cases under care during 1942, and the decrease to 83 in 1943.

All Catholic unwed mothers are referred to the Bureau of Catholic Charities and the unwed mothers of Jewish faith are turned over to the Federation of Jewish Charities, Mrs. Sharpe said.

Although the war has not had any effect on the numerical increase in unwed mothers, Mrs. Sharpe pointed out, case work service revealed that 61 per cent of the putative fathers involved were in military service.

In 29 per cent of these cases, the only contact possible was through field representatives of the American Red Cross. A denial of paternity and very meager factual information as to paternal background are usually the result of such indirect contacts, the report said. 5-30-44

Often the girl has known the putative father for a very brief period of time and is able to give practically no information about him. This lack of knowledge about paternal background handicaps plans for the child in cases of adoption and often delays placement indefinitely. 5-30-44

Three Married

Of the 57 mothers dismissed in 1943, three later married, two white and one Negro; relatives took 32 of the mothers and their babies, 30 white and two Negroes; eight of the babies were committed to the state DPW; three were still-born, one was placed in a free home by the mother, and one was committed to the local DPW.

During the year, 23 putative fathers were reached directly or indirectly. Five admitted possibility of paternety, one promised financial assistance. Eleven implied paternity—four of them were married men—and six denied the possibility of paternity.

Intelligence quotient tests were given to 25 of the mothers, with the following results: Two had superior intelligence; eight were average; 13 were of borderline or inferior intelligence, and two were feeble-minded.

Reasons Given

Three possible reasons for the lack of increase in unmarried cases here were given by the report.

Economic security is greater now than in the past and girls are better able to make independent plans; Birmingham does not have a large army camp within its immediate proximity and is not a military area; and the agency does not know of possible irregular and independent placements.

Briefly, Mrs. Sharpe summarized the agency's approach to the problems of unmarried parenthood.

Each Case Studied

First, no formula is possible, since each case requires individual care and approach. 5-30-44

The agency, she said, stands for a flexible non-judgmental attitude, based on the precept that the unmarried mother has the same basic rights and responsibilities in relation to her child as the married mother.

All of the client's relationship and decisions are held confidential. The unmarried father is regarded as an individual with rights and privileges whose needs, as well as responsibilties, are considered in case work planning.

Police Records Show Great Increase In Arrests For Juvenile Delinquency

Post-Birmingham, Ala.

5-31-44

Approximately 200 persons are arrested today showed an increase of 47.9 per cent. Records examined today showed arrests for vagrancy each month in Birmingham, police reports show. The FBI report, based on records that during May, 1943, a total of 339 persons, ranging from 17 to 28 years of age, were convicted in Recorder's Court here for various offenses.

The offenses were listed as drunkenness, disorderly conduct, gaming, traffic and other violations. Of these offenders, 21 per cent were 17 to 20 years of age; 40 per cent were of the total were white males; 13 per cent were white females; 39 per cent were Negro males and eight per cent included Negro females.

An analysis of the group 17 to 20 years shows that, for all delinquencies, Negroes surpass the whites, although the white males and females surpass Negro males and females in drunkenness. The records showed that Negro males and females surpassed white of both sexes in disorderly conduct.

EDITOR'S

By ROBERT DUER

Juvenile Delinquency

Weekly Review-Chicago, Ill.

5-31-44

N. Y. JUDGE DROPS SLAYING CHARGE AGAINST GIRL, 11

New York, May 22 (AP).—Homicide charges against Madeline Kirkland, 11, a Negro accused of stabbing and killing a schoolmate, Margaret Patton, 9, were dismissed today, and Chief Magistrate Henry H. Curran transferred the case to children's court.

Madeline and another schoolmate, Eileen Foster, 12, also a Negro, were taken into custody after Margaret was killed with a paper cutter in a Harlem school.

Police said Madeline wielded the weapon as Eileen held the other child's arms, and attributed the act

Five fourteen or sixteen year

ld boys were seen molesting two girls about the same age in front of The Weekly Review office in Birmingham about eleven O'clock one night during the past week.

The two girls had been to the show. They lived in Fairfield. Their mothers worked out. The boys were chased away and the two girls were given refuge in a garage near by. One said she had car fare home, but the other one didn't and said she was going to the Southside to stay with her sister, but Mrs. Brown who operates the garage came forth with the statement that the girl was not telling the truth because she knew the girl had no sister on the Southside. The writer gave Mrs. Brown car fare for the girl who said she didn't have any money. Mrs. Brown stated that she would see that they got on the car for home. 1-8-44

This incident should be food for thought for fathers and mothers and all who are interested in the juvenile problem.

In "Our Sunday Visitor," October 3, 1943, there was an article entitled "Can We Afford to 'Include God Out' " In the article God is a hpyothetical being. He stands for charity, love, sacrifice, humility, etc. We must emphasize religion. Clergymen, nuns, brothers and other religious persons must learn the skill of dealing with human nature. They must learn to accept the prostitute girl, the stealer and the alcoholics. They should not only accept but also love these people. In most cases they are bawled out and one can imagine the result. They will run away from religion.

Education:—to remove basic causes of delinquency and other behavior problems, a long range program of education, health and social welfare is necessary. The following objectives should be aimed for:

1.—Obtain financial support for an adequate program of child care and education.

2,—Reduce size of classes — we need more teachers.

3.—Assign more experienced teachers to difficult schools and underprivileged areas. Bring back the teacher who is not too busy to become interested in children's problems.

4.—Provide an additional guidance staff with emphasis upon attention to needs of the individual child. Every school should have a child guidance teacher.

5.—Allocate additional recreational facilities with properly organized supervision. 1-8-44

6.—Provide a physical fitness program as developed by the New York State War Council. Such a program would make children 'fit to fight on all fronts." It would give every child strength, agility, stamina and endurance.

7.—Provide an adequate program of relief for needy pupils. There should be an adequate number of instructors for reading and arithmetic; medical, nursing, psychiatric and other child-care work must be provided for.

8.—Adequately equipped shops of various kinds for maladjusted pupils from 13 to 16 years.

9.—Provide properly trained personnel to give educational and vocational guidance.

10.—Provide facilities for more adequate and complete studies of the child physically and emotionally and from the personality point of view.

11.—Bring out a better cooperation between the school and the various community agencies dealing with the prevention of maladjustment and delinquency.

12.—Establishment of child care centers.

13.—Encourage parent-teacher relationships.

Judiciary: 1-8-44

Juvenile Court Judges should study every problem individually. If the child welfare field is deficent in getting all the facts of the case and the community responsibility is low, the justice will naturally be compelled to commit more boys to training schools. This is like a dose of aspirin to relieve pain when the primary etiological factor may be starting a serious ailment. Judges should have every possble cooperation to keep boys away from institutions. We should not place too much emphasis on social pathology, especially of the physical type. Non-delinquents do and will continue to come from the slums. Many a good soldier comes from the home with the alcoholic father, but he always wants to return if love is present.

Municipal:

()1—According to the late Mayor Gaynor, "the primary duyt of police authorities should be directed to see that streets are made safe for every man, woman and child." Bureaucratic city officials protecting crime have no place in a democracy.

(2)—Local community morals stations should be organized similar to local health stations, with proper personnel who can give a lending hand to youths and understand their problems. Such groups would be well acquainted with the neighborhoods and they could make recommendations to proper authorities to eliminate or not license pool rooms and cellar clubs that are the nests of crime. Parents and religious and socially minded groups could work together. 1-8-44

(3)—Establishment of community centers, for leisure time activities, completely equipped and supervised from 3 to 9 P. M. Organized play with competitive games and outdoor sports will make for healthy youth.

(4)—Public officials should not hesitate to shut down crime centres. Police authorities should be permitted a free hand in the protection of the public.

(5)—Establishment of a disciplinary institution for the juvenile deliquent. A period of interment for three months in which, instead of school work, the inmate is given council and correcton of physical and mental deficiencies. Counsellor should be an experienced police officer, intelligent and physically fit and a psychologist who understands children. It is essential for such counsellor to be mentally honest and sincere with irreproachable behavior. The earlier correction is started, the better will be the prognosis.

(6)—Judiciary should know something about child phychology or consult someone acquainted with that field.

(7)—Local Civilian Community groups should be organized to study this problem and work together with all other agencies. They should be given police privileges to enforce laws if parents do not cooperate.

(8)—Motion picture producers should help us by putting on the screens instructive case histories, without sensational criminal details, emphasizing the factors which enter into delinquency and crime such as the broken home, sordid housing conditions, lack of love and companionship, lack of religion and lack of background to do the right thing.

(9)—Community groups of laymen and laywomen should be organized to help supply the needs to overcome these deficiencies and to give these children an opportunity for education and rehabilitation. 1-8-44

THE DELINQUENT CHILD

Cure:

The correctional process in the United States has become democratized. It has accepted the fundamental principles of democracy. Our aim is to make every effort to assist all, even the apparently worthless individual, to find some place in the scale of useful social living. The program followed is one of rehabilitation. There are no bad boys. Boys with a clear knowledge of right and wrong will deliberately follow the former and not the latter. There are no boys whose future is hopeless. However, there are boys who for various reasons show signs of being unable to meet the heavy and complex demands of our modern American life and whose inadequacy is expressed in behavior which is called delinquent.

(1) Let us study each individual child thoroughly, correct physical defects and make proper adjustments.

(2) Let us provide proper home life with love of father and mother.

(3) Yet us remember children should be properly motivated, loved, and not regimented. Over-supervised and even just ordinarily supervised children rebel against supervision when they are not loved and respected as human beings.

(4) Let us give the child a break.

(5) Let us give him proper nutrition.

(6) Let us not send children away. Keep them home. They want security and not the feeling that they are not wanted. It has been estimated that rejection of children causes 80 per cent of delinquency.

(7) Let us keep the boy occupied with no leisure time and plenty of work and play so that he is physically tired.

Conclusions:

(1) Juvenile delinquency is an outgrowth of an unhealthy and unstable social order with the resulting parental, educational, religious, judiciary and municipal neglect. This condition can be prevented by a stabilized social order and the organized efforts of these agencies. Such a program to be effectual requires the cooperation of each local citizen with a sense of social responsibility, for citizens are best fitted to solve their own individual community problems and hence promote a wholesome neighborhood life. 1-8-44

(2) American women by their inherited qualities can unite to weld the family units and in turn civilized society which is the foundation of our democracy. Women superior to men should bear this responsibility to inculcate in children love for the family and for the other fellow, irrespective of race and creed, remembering that love does not come suddenly but must come gradually to them beginning in their early infancy.

(3) Children should be treated as human beings, properly motivated, loved and not regimented. Keep them nourished, physically and morally fit, with a religious background and a sense of security and responsibility.

(4) Children should be constantly occupied during so-called leisure hours.

(5) Local community groups or moral centers with understanding and properly trained personnel should cooperate with all agencies to solve the problem of maladjustment in the respective communities, remembering that the earlier irregularities are corrected, the better will be the chance for improvement.

(6) Full and sincere cooperation of municipal authorities to eradicate breeders of crime, to institute laws to protect children from unnatural and immoral influences to provide properly supervised recreation centers for organized play, and to erect schools for counsel and study of delinquent children.

Private Police Commended on Delinquency Stand

TRIBUNE, WASHINGTON, D.C
2-12-44

Police Private O. A. Cowan showed a true humaritarian spirit when he brought a ten-year-told boy before the House District sub-committee hearing on juvenile delinquency last week and impressed upon the committee that if some method is devised whereby children are taught the right way of life at such a tender age many of the delinquency problems would be abolished. Mr. Cowan revealed that the case history of the child, which was prepared by "Mayor Rudolph Robertson of the 13th Precinct and others, showed his habits include petty things like stealing from the five-and-ten."

Private Cowan revealed the existence of a juvenile police force that is doing much to eradicate delinquency among themselves. Their creed is: "I promise to keep myself out of trouble at all times and promise to keep my friends out of trouble at all times." "In my opinion," Private Cowan stated, "we should get at the cause of a boy's trouble rather than worry about effect."

The Police Private received special commendation for his stand by the Methodist Ministers' Union of Washington and Vicinity in a letter addressed to Major Edward Kelly, superintendent

considered Private of Metropolitan Police 2-12-44 gro motorcycle policemen to the force and extended an invitation to Private Cowan to appear before the body.

The ministers expressed their recent northside attacks.

The Negro boy, taken into cusquoted him as involving Perry

opinion in the letter that they

Sunday afternoon by Radio Johnston, 35, a Negro living in the

Arrest of John Johnston Boy Owns 13-year-old Negro, is believed bynear the corner of Highland and Blue Ridge avenues, police said. solved a number of attacks.

In his alleged admission, police fied by the woman as her attacker, juvenile detention home.

Patrolmen W. M. Miller and M. W. rear of a St. Charles avenue ad Blackwell, a short time after a dress, who was arrested. woman had been attacked while Johnston is held at police headthe community," walking on Barnett street, near quarters on suspicion of assault, Ponce de Leon avenue, was identi- while Smith is detained at the

13 Years Old, Boy Admits 10 Attacks on Women

Thomas Smith, atacks which occurred last week

32-1944

Negro Preacher Reduces Delinquency Of Youths

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer

Wilson, March 12.—While towns all over the nation are being worried over a solution to the juvenile delinquency problem, a middle-aged Negro preacher has been conducting a one-man crusade against the problem in Wilson for the past three months with such success that he warranted the comment of police officials here this week that "he has done more for the Negro young people in town than anyone else has in the past decade."

The story of the Rev. C. B. Beaman, who is pastor of a tiny church in the factory section of town, is an interesting one.

Three months or so ago he started out on his work. His church membership was very small. He tried to get outside help but couldn't do much, apparently. So he went out himself. March 13, 1944

Pounding the pavements day and night he has checked on the Negro youth of Wilson. During the day he has kept watch at picture shows, bowling alleys, pool parlors and other such places and when he has found youngsters of school age he has literally dragged them back to school. Late at night after such youngsters should be home he has taken them home when he has found them roaming the streets.

Beamon has gone to homes of children that he has found and talked to parents and children alike. Only once in all the time he has been conducting his campaign has he had a hard word from the parent. He also has talked t youngsters who have been picked up by police.

Juvenile delinquency among Negro youth has dropped amazingly in Wilson since Beamon started work. Aattendance in Negro schools has also showed an incline.

The eyes of the Negro groups here are now on him in cooperative way.

Last week he appeared before the town board of aldermen for their endorsement of his program. There were indications that he would get this and even more in the future if the work kept up.

He presented a four-point program to the aldermen that he had started and which he was asking the churches to help further in the way of free will offerings.

The program, he feels, will help combat the delinquency problem among Negro youth in Wilson.

The four points proposed by Beamon are:

That a building shall be occupied and maintained for the sole purpose of housing juvenile delinquents during their period of probation.

That this building be fully equipped to offer substantial aid in this work.

That a regular outlined course of study planned by the "Leadership Training Organization" (his own group) be given these delinquents.

That a supervisor fully qualified for such work be placed in charge of this institution mentioned.

Reids[illegible] Review

March 20, 1944

NEGRO WOMAN'S YOUTH CAMPAIGN HAILED BY JUDGE

Houston, Tex.—(U.P.)—A negro woman's gallant fight against delinquency among children of her race has been described by County Judge Roy Hofheinz as 'one of the finest things that ever happened here."

The woman, identified by the judge only as "Ray," began her career as friend, stern disciplinarian and "mother" toward negro boys 10 months ago.

She first appeared in juvenile court in behalf of a 15-year-old negro boy, one of nine fatherless children and from a household swollen by in-laws to 16 persons.

None of them was working. The 15-year-old lad brought home stolen money. While he slept, other members of the family searched his tattered clothing, taking whatever they found.

Ray stepped in with Judge Hofheinz's approval. She chased out all the relatives, paring the household down to the boy's immediate family. She got him a job during the summer months in a Houston office building.

When the fall school term commenced, her charge was among those present. After school hours, he worked on a farm. Nearly 17 now, Ray's first "guinea pig" in a life-scale experiment in social correction is the owner of four war bonds and wants to join the navy.

This is merely the first, not the only, case. There are several other similar ones.

Ray is a college graduate and a school teacher by profession.

For her patience at an all-important job in human relations, where decency and freedom and respectability are the stakes, Ray receives no pay. Her work is known to few people besides the judge and the boys and families she works with.

"As for what has been done," she has told Judge Hofheinz, "I only hope it will last. As for the future, I'm willing to do all I can, if the court will back my authority."

The judge, knowing her work, is willing to back her authority.

Group of Negro Boys and Girls Wage Juvenile Delinquency Fight

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

A group of earnest young Negro boys and girls have undertaken to do what they can in the fight against juvenile delinquency.

Acting as committee from the Nine High Seven class in civics at Booker T. Washington High school, with their teacher, Charles L. Gideons, they paid a visit to Judge Garland Watkins, of the juvenile court. The judge congratulated their race, on having a slower rate of increase in delinquency than white people. The increase in 1943 among Negroes, he told them, was 14 per cent for boys and 5 per cent for girls, as compared with a 37 per cent increase for white boys and a 33 per cent increase for white girls.

The causes of delinquency, he told them, were as follows:

1. Defective home discipline, with some parents too severe and others too lenient.
2. Undisciplined parents.
3. Vicious homes.
4. Heredity.

February 20, 1944

Other causes were poverty, illiteracy and bad companions.

The committee consisted of Archie McMath, chairman; Arnette Sayles, co-chairaman; George McFarland, Rufus Truitt, Shirley Jean Hunt, Gertrude Barnett and Levirgia Leavelle.

MEETING ARRANGED FOR COLORED YOUTH

Savannah, Ga. Press

THEY WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

February 5, 1944

A meeting for colored youth will be held Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the community house at the Georgia State College for the purpose of giving adolescent boys and girls an opportunity to express freely their opinions on juvenile delinquency, it was announced this morning by B. F. Hubert, president of the college, who is making the arrangements.

The Rev. Robert Brennan, O. S. B., chairman of the committee on adolescent youth in Savannah, which was recently appointed by Robert W. Groves, chairman of the O. S. D., will outline the objective sof the committee and discuss needs of youth under present conditions.

Two representatives between the ages of 14-18, of each youth group in the city and county will be invited to attend the meeting.

Most of the shop and trade equipment from the former NYA project at Jesup for negroes has already arrived at the college, Professor Hubert said this morning, and some of it has been installed and is ready for use in laundry and home economics building.

A group of home economics students will leave the latter part of next week for their assigned places to begin their teacher training on the following Monday morning.

W. K. Payne, dean of instruction, and E. L. Maxwell, head of the health program at the college, are in Statesboro holding classes for twenty teachers who are working toward their college degrees.

The Rev. S. A. Baker, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church and a graduate of Georgia State College, will be guest preacher for the morning church service tomorrow, and Professor Hubert will be the speaker for the vesper service.

ON THE REEL

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 1-8-44

By REV. TASCHEREAU ARNOLD

Church Can Fight Juvenile Delinquency

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY is one of the pressing problems faced by this nation today. Many of the youngsters are running wild so to speak. Many contributing factors might be given as the reason. Some say it is due to the war. That is, many of the mothers have been forced to do war work, and their children are left in many instances to spend their spare time like they please.

F. T. Lane stated in a special article, prepared for the Associated Negro Press, that "Juvenile delinquency has come to the forefront as a serious problem. He said that many people are recommending additional recreational facilities, which he believes will help in a great measure.

Mr. Lane declared that practically all students of the problem state that the home and family are responsible for the increase in juvenile delinquency, stating that the only agency that is qualified to improve the quality of family living and to teach the elements which make better character is the church.

It is rather interesting to note according to Mr. Lane's article some suggestions made by the civic department of the Chicago Urban League proposing the following plan for churches which will in time improve relationships and indirectly prevent family disintegration and juvenile delinquency.

1-8-44

Here they are:

"1. Set aside one Sunday each month as Family day and urge each member to have all the members of his family attend church and sit together. The minister can prepare a special sermon and present other material which he may get from agencies. This should not be sponsored as a pew rally or some financial effort, but established as a regular part of church program and function. If once a month is too often, it should be developed at least once every three months.

"2. Church weddings should be featured. While many church marriages occur in June, thousands of marriages take place each month. If each church could develop a ratio of one church marriage for five funerals, this would help to emphasize interest in better family relations. More young people would want to get married in the church which would give an opportunity for the minister and his aids to advise on the important factors involved in marriage and family relations.

"3. Organize a special group or circle of men and women to foster "family day" and "church weddings." As a suggestion you might use the term "Mr. and Mrs." club. This circle could develop a treasury from which funds could be used to help with necessary ex-

1-8-44

penses incident to church marriages. They could also publicize in the community newspaper the number of marriages which have taken place, as well as their other activities. They would take the lead in sponsoring social and educational projects along the line of better family living."

Selah!

Group of Negro Boys and Girls Wage Juvenile Delinquency Fight

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

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February 20, 1944

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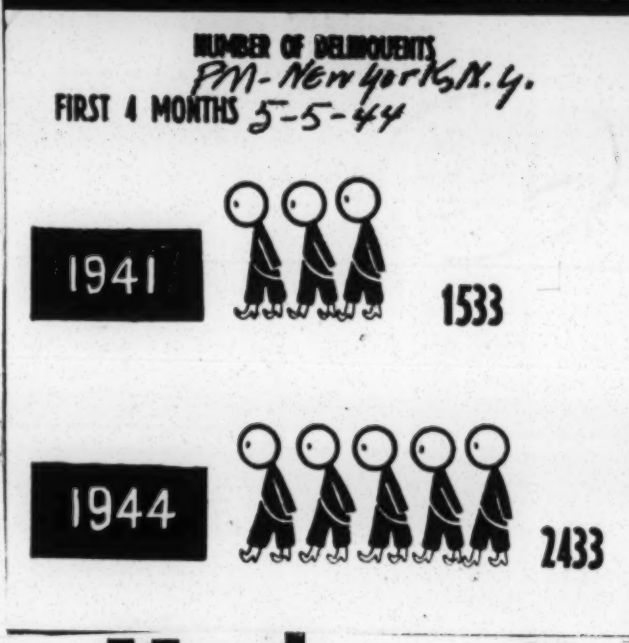
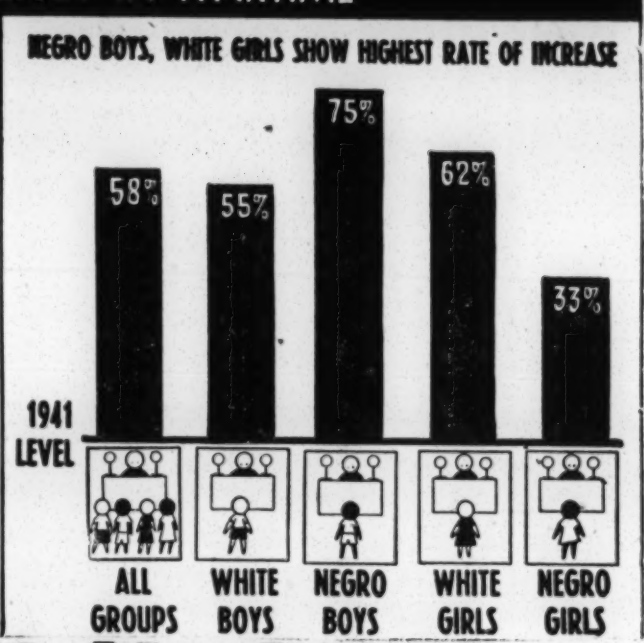
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN WARTIME





and little sister were pouring over when I entered the flat, showed many A marks in bright red pencil.

What would cause girls like Madeline Kirkland and Eileen Foster to get mixed up in a murder case? Part of the answer might be found in whatever the answer is to the question; What caused the two Brooklyn boys last year to shoot a teacher? 5-12-44

Each of the three girls was fatherless, while Madeline's and Eileen's mothers worked. The accused girls were, therefore, largely unsupervised by older or responsible persons. Lack of adult supervision extended even to the school, for the classes are overcrowded and teachers too few.

The Negro ghetto influence on the growing child, is an important part of the answer.

Sorrowing Mothers in Schoolgirl Tragedy Tell About Broken Homes

Daily Worker-New York, N.Y. 5-12-44

By EUGENE GORDON

I talked with three heart-broken mothers in Harlem yesterday, Mrs. Emma Kirkland, Mrs. Esther Foster and Mrs. Bertha Patton. I talked to them about the killing of one daughter allegedly by the daughters of the other two. Mrs. Kirkland summed up how they all felt:

"I don't know any more about what happened or how it happened than you do. I'm just stunned—and sick."

Madeline Kirkland, 11, of 237 W. 133 St., and Eileen Foster, 13, of 237 W. 133 St., are charged with stabbing to death Margaret Patton, 9, of 55 W. 137 St., in the auditorium of Public School 119, a few doors west of Eileen's home, at about 11 Tuesday morning.

Eileen Foster, who, police say, did not do the actual killing, was arraigned Wednesday in Children's Court as a delinquent. Her case was adjourned to May 9.

Madeline Kirkland was arraigned in Homicide Court, charged with the actual killing.

Both girls, in the meantime, are detained at the Brooklyn Society for Prevention of Cruelty to children.

Mrs. Kirkland, separated for some time from her husband and living with friends at 550 W. 146 St., Washington Heights area, comes home late from factory work and, therefore, is unable to maintain supervision of her child. She has never met either Eileen or Eileen's mother. 5-13-44

These four Harlem children are potential victims of juvenile delinquency. One youngster is forced to mind the baby while mother is away at work; the others sit in the squalor of the street, nothing to do, no playgrounds to have fun in, no one to supervise them. Look at this picture for a few minutes—then read the story of Eileen Foster and Madeline Kirkland, held for the stabbing of Margaret Patton, schoolmate. There's an indictment and a warning in this picture.

FATHERLESS CHILD

Mrs. Foster, whose husband is dead, works a half day Tuesday and Friday in the Bronx. She spends the rest of her time at home, she said, never having gone to a movie, even, "for the past five years." Eileen, she insisted, could not have killed little Margaret. Mrs. Foster said a detective at the station to which she was summoned from work Tuesday morning told her "the other girl" had confessed.

Mrs. Patton, whose husband, according to neighbors, is in "an institution," was ill from the shock of her daughter's tragic death. She is sorry, she said, for the two girls. She "just can't believe this thing has happened to Margaret."

The three children lived in widely separate parts of the city: the dead girl opposite the vehicular entrance to Harlem Hospital on 137 St., in depressing slum surroundings; Eileen Foster on 133 St. near the school where the killing occurred, in surroundings equally bad; Madeline Kirkland, recently removed to a formerly "white neighborhood," had the best outward environment.

A teacher told me that both Eileen and Madeline were "backward" in school. Margaret Patton's copybooks, which her mother

974 Cases Of Delinquency Post-Birmingham Given Court In Last Year

5-26-44

By Argyle S. Copeland

I had rather deal with the case of a child that came from a home broken from positive circumstances than with those children who come from homes of indifferent parents," Judge William Hogue, of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, said today.

Of the 184 delinquent cases of girls handled by the court in 1943, he said, there were 40 more among white girls than among Negroes. The totals for boys were 304 among whites and 486 among Negroes. The grand total was 974.

Mrs. L. J. Rogers, complaint clerk of the juvenile division, reported that the majority of the delinquent offenders were between 14 and 18. Delinquent children are classified as those between the ages of seven and 18.

Others, under seven and some over that age, may be termed dependent or neglected children. In those cases, the parents are held directly responsible and punished by the court. 5-26-44

Mrs. Rogers said.

First offenders usually are given probation, but Judge Hogue and other juvenile officials agreed that their staff is inadequate to follow up these cases and eliminate the contributing factors in the home that led to the first offense. Consequently, the offenders err again and are brought back for trial.

Children who are committed to the Juvenile Court to await trial stay an average of 10 days. Out of 140 cases brought by the court to a city at the court, 98 Negro girls to Meigs Reform School, and 18 feebleminded were committed to the Feeble-minded School for the insane. Other children over the low IQ are on the waiting list for institutions are crowded to capacity,

32-1944

Van Burley's N.Y.N.Y.

BACK DOOR STUFF

N.Y. Amsterdam News 4-2-44

Back Door On Juvenile Delinquency

Let's talk about juvenile delinquency. Biggest trouble Back Door sees is: it's mama and papa who are delinquent instead of Sonny and Mary Ann. You see it's like this: mama and papa apparently haven't grown up or have missed (or thought they have missed) a lot of things in life and are just now getting around to them. Thus, mama and papa are taking over where Sonny and Mary Ann should be getting the play and making an unholy mess of the whole thing. The average Sonny or Mary Ann isn't a bad kid. Not by a long shot. Neither is the average Sonny or Mary Ann dumb. They dig plenty, old man, and when they see the play stacking up the other way, they cut in with a little light playing themselves. With no checks on their action, they graduate from class to class until the cops get 'em. Mama and papa then start spilling the brine, but it's too late.

4-2-44

As I see it, there's no room for a kid in today's world. From a tot the kid is raised in an adult atmosphere. No fairy stories because mama and papa don't know any. No children's music because all mama an papa and their friends want to hear are such tunes as "Hello Baby, Had To Call You On the Phone," or "I Wanna Riff." Little space to play in except the sidewalk because mama and papa are renting out that extra room, and if it gets too rough, the bathroom and part of the kitchen. Little parental companionship because mama and papa are busy "gettin' hold o' som'n." Thus, Sonny and Mary Ann don't even get a good chance to be kids. Mama and papa rely too much on the cops and school teachers to raise their kids. Inexpert psychology and as inexpert application of conflicting sociological stuff from a flock of books, from radio quickies, moving pictures, and the lady next door have supplanted the good old razor strop and peach tree switch to cure certain tendencies among our kids such as lying, swiping, playing hooky, disobedience, etc. With mama at the picture show or bridge party; papa at the tavern, Sonny and Mary Ann decide that the devil won't get 'em if they smoke a cigaret, take a swig of sweet wine and cut a little rug in the rear of the candy store. That's the way it starts, I think. Do you?

Figures Show Only Part Of Illegitimacy Problem

Birmingham Post-Birmingham, Ala.

By Jane Aldridge

The full extent of the illegitimacy problem here is only hinted at in figures released by the Salvation Army Home. 5-19-44

"After all the girls who are treated here are those who voluntarily come or are sent to us. How many girls there are who do not know about the home, or who are taken care of at their own homes by their own family physician or go elsewhere for treatment can only be guessed at," home officials said.

Welfare agents and social workers agreed with the statement. "We know only of the cases actually referred to us. How many others

SECOND OF A SERIES

there are we can only guess, but I should imagine that if all the figures were available, particularly if we also could get figures, even reasonably accurate, on abortions, the picture truly would be shocking!" one of the social workers declared. 5-19-44

Tell Only Part Of Story

"Bear in mind, too," she pointed out, "that these figures tell the story only of Protestant girls. Roman Catholics and Jewish groups care for their own cases with. 5-19-44

"I believe our splendid record in the case of juvenile delinquency and problems such as this question of young unwed mothers, is due to the very important position the family holds in Jewish life."

Although welfare workers who follow through on "case histories" of many of these girls were loath to put the blame entirely on parents, they did agree that, in an appalling number of cases, particularly those involving younger girls, the men involved were not known to the girls families.

Know Little Of Men

"I could show you record after record," one of them said, "in which the girls themselves knew little except the names about the men who became the fathers of their babies. In some cases they weren't even too sure of names."

That the war and a sort of patriotic hysteria could be blamed for the increasingly serious problem was indicated by statistics showing that 61 per cent of the fathers investigated were in military service.

"The girls stories are very similar,' one investigator said. "Little teen-age adolescents, eager for excitement and adventure and feeling out of it all because they are too young for the USO canteens, and other activities which keep their older sisters busy, and who at the same time, feel 'too old' for boys their own age, 'date' soldiers 'just for excitement.' 5-19-44

They're Everywhere

"You see them everywhere, giggling adolescents in sweaters and bobby socks, crowding into restaurants and drug stores to 'kid' with service men.

"Later, you see them walking down the streets, holding hands with soldiers, and all too often, you find them still later on, on our case records.

"It's a sad indictment of our homes, schools and churches," she concluded. "The children aren't to blame. The rest of us certainly are."

Births Show High Rate Of Illegitimacy

Birmingham Post

Birmingham, Ala.

By Jane Aldridge

One of every 10 babies born in Birmingham the first four months of this year was illegitimate.

Among Negroes nearly one of every four children born was illegitimate. 5-22-44

Among whites, the ratio of chil-

FOURTH OF A SERIES

dren born out of wedlock was one of every 37.

The figures come from the official records of the Department of Vital Statistics of the Jefferson County Health Department.

1 In 37 Illegitimate

The records showed a total of 1409 white children born here since Jan. 1. Of that number 38 were illegitimte.

During that same period a total of 859 Negro babies were born here, with 195 of that number beng classified as illegitimate, according to their birth certificate records.

George V. Truss, director of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, said that these were the figures on the official birth certificate records for Birmingham only and were "presumed to be correct, though we have no way of checking their accuracy."

Turned In By Doctors

He explained that statements of legitimacy or illegitimacy are recorded just as they are turned in by the attending physician or midwife. 5-22-44

A further breakdown of health department figures, in records of unwed white mothers, shows that three are 14 or under in age; one 15; three 16; four 17; one 18; three 19; four 20; four 21; three 22; three 23; one 24, and eight 25.

Among Negroes, 18 unwed mothers were 15 or under and there was one of 12.

Records at the Salvation Army Home and Hospital show, however, that one girl, now 12, is there expectant and that there have been 11 births to girls under 15 years of age.

The Home cares for all such cases in Jefferson County, as well as a few from surrounding counties in the Birmingham district.

In the City of Birmingham alone, illegitimate white births were 826 in 1943 as compared to 503 in 1930.

Court's Staff Too Small For War On Delinquency

Birm. Post Birmingham Alabama

5-23-44

By Argyl S. Copeland

In the City of Birmingham alone, illegitimate white births were 826 in 1943 as compared to 503 in 1930. Among Negroes, nearly one of every four children born the first four months of this year was illegitimate.

Most authorities agree that illegitimacy is the most serious problem arising out of juvenile delinquency. The other, as shown by Army and health sources figures, is the widespread problem of venereal diseases.

Turning to the forces allotted to combat the causes of the alarming increase in delinquency in Jefferson County, it was disclosed today by Judge William Hogue, of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, that his staff is inadequate to take care of the problem.

SIFTH OF A SERIES

These are the personnel who handle juvenile delinquency in this a half million population:

In the Bessemer Cutoff, one woman and one man probation officer handle all cases of delinquency and dependant and neglected children in that section.

For the rest of the county, T. L. Barker is in charge of all delinquent boys. Two women probation officers are responsible for delinquent girls, dependant and neglected children. Two Negro employes handle cases relating to delinquent boys, girls, and dependant and neglected Negro children.

Judge Hogue said approximately 35 cases of juvenile delinquency are handled each week in his court. 5-28-44

"Much mention has been made here," Judge Hogue said, "about the law enforcement in other cities, in which parents have been held directly responsible for their children's crimes."

"The idea is not new in Alabama," he said. "A law numbered 478, House Bill 958, was passed in 1935 in the Legislature, which gives the juvenile court and probation officers exclusive authority to arrest and prosecute a person or persons contributing to juvenile delinquency." This law, the judge said, has been enforced here since that time, but during his jurisdiction, the parents have been given the benefit of the doubt.

"We give the parents the American right to have their say in court, to explain why their children are running about the streets or committing other delinquent acts," the judge said. "If the parents' and children's guilt is established, both are punished."

"The figures given on personnel for themselves," Judge Hogue said. "With an adequate number of probation officers of the right kind, much can be done to eliminate the problem of juvenile delinquency here."

TRAGEDY IN SCHOOL LAST WEEK

The New York Age headlined on the front page one of the most tragic stories printed in recent months. It was on the cold-blooded killing of a nine-year-old girl student in the school yard of Public School 119 by two other students, 11 and 13 years old each, one of whom held the victim while the other delivered the fatal knife thrust above her heart. 5-20-44

Publication of the story caused mingled reactions throughout the city.

Agencies concerned with juvenile problems, particularly delinquency, and churches, schools and parental groups were disheartened, as well as shocked, at the tragedy.

Each pointed the accusing finger at the other. Each said that there had been a breakdown and that the other had failed in carrying out a responsibility.

Who is responsible?

Certainly, not the juvenile agencies which

are attempting to do a job of rehabilitation often under the most adverse conditions and opposition.

The tragedy last week shows definitely that parental and church groups are not doing the job as they should.

The tragedy last week shows definitely that schools can do but so much and no more; the rest is up to the parent, to the church, and to society. 5-20-44

Too many parents feel that the school is responsible for the tragedy. Be it here said that the school is responsible insofar as it was the locale of the tragic incident. If there was negligence on the part of any teachers or supervisors, who saw the crime about to be committed and then failed to act, then and only then can there be any charge of negligence against the school.

Too many parents feel that the school is responsible for the tragedy because it has the child for the major portion of his conscious and waking hours. If the school were charged with the entire discipling and upbringing of children, rather than giving them an education, then there would be some justification for the feeling that the school was at fault.

Let's place the blame squarely where it belongs. If there is rising juvenile delinquency, let us be truthful enough to admit that the parents and the church are responsible. As trying as war-time can be, let us not fall into the common error of blaming everything on the war.

If parents were to instill in their children the love for humanity, and respect for another person's property, there would be less cause for grief. If parents were to stop being delinquent themselves, as far as moral and spiritual values are concerned, there would be less chance for their children following the wrong paths. If parents were to spend more time training their children and teaching them the difference between right and wrong, there would be less reason for their children doing the wrong things. Parents should know that their children look at them and pattern their actions after them. When they set the wrong example, naturally the child will believe the wrong example to be right because in his eyes his parents can do no wrong. 5-20-44

The church needs to check up on its program and see why so many children have fallen by the wayside. The church needs to do more work with its growing youthful christians rather than concentrating so much of its energy on its older christians who have already learned to walk in the paths of righteousness. The church needs to concentrate its energies on teaching its youth about moral values as well as the spiritual values.

The tragic incident in a Harlem public school is but one of many which has been repeated all over the country by members of all races. Now is the time to take definite measures to correct the situation. Sitting down and saying: "It's too bad!" won't help the situation. Nor will passing laws. 5-20-44

The tragic incident merely serves notice on all parents to check up on the training they are giving their children at home. It also serves notice on the church to do something to bring more children to it. And while the subject is still being talked about, it won't hurt for our schools and juvenile agencies also to check up on their programs.

32-1944

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

World-Telegram—New York, N.Y.

I suppose we must give Mrs. Roosevelt and Mayor La Guardia credit for sincerity and good intentions in their attempts to deal with waywardness in children but it seems to me that their understanding is cramped by their politics.

La Guardia has been Mayor of New York for about 10 years and just at this time it is no exaggeration to say that a child of, say, 12, is in greater danger of corruption in some of the New York public schools and particularly in La Guardia's own residential and political district of the city, than he or she would be in certain of the slightly gainful summer occupations which the Mayor proscribes. Little criminals break into the schools at night in vacation time and destroy furniture, machinery and records and there have been many cases of stabbing and shooting, including the episode in which two little girls killed another in a public school in the presence of a number of other children and teachers. Teachers have been punched around and generally terrorized, too, and there are reports of rocks being thrown through the windows of trains passing through Mr. La Guardia's own Harlem where his personal and political protege, Vito Marcantonio, the only unfailing spokesman of the Communist Party line in Congress, officiates as the presiding spirit of the New Deal.

7-11-44

The Mayor has reminded his subjects that newspaper and publishing plants are forbidden areas of summer employment for children under 16. Yet, except for the influence of the Communist members of the newspaper guild, of which Mrs. Roosevelt is a member, the young would be better off, morally, and in less peril physically, in the office of a daily newspaper than in those public schools under his own tight and autocratic jurisdiction where not mere mischief but downright, dangerous criminality is rife.

* * *

The Communists, of course, are devoted to the intentional corruption of youth. This program and details of its operation were set forth in the confessional autobiography of Benjamin Gitlow, the predecessor of Earl Browder as the American chief of the Muscovite conspiracy. Still, with few exceptions both allied with the New Deal, the New York newspaper plants are so manned that the Communists could not prevail over the better example of the American members of the staffs, who are, on the whole, normally decent men and women whose influence would be good.

Both La Guardia and Mrs. Roosevelt have indicated a belief that poverty itself, is a stronger influence for corruption in the young than the facts show it to have been. They seem unaware that we have in our midst a kind of people who might be called Park Avenue crackers or rich trash, whose young, girls as well as boys, turn out to be bums because their home influences were rotten. I never have seen in any of their givings on this subject an appreciation of the fact that squalor does not necessarily consist of cracked plaster, bedbugs, cold-water plumbing and cluttered fire-escapes but exist, as conspicuous misbehavior has shown, in certain country mansions of the hereditary gentry and in their town houses off the avenues.

7-11-44

The fact that relatively few such children are committed to correctional schools may mislead the Mayor and the lady who has demurely identified her husband as the ruler of the American people. Money and position keep them out of jail and their names off the records but we may firmly surmise from prominent displays of adolescent and early adult cynicism, graft and spectacular indifference to the old American standard of family integrity that some parents in the upper brackets have failed conspicuously who nevertheless think themselves qualified to lecture others on the moral duty of the parent to the child.

* * *

The Mayor and Mrs. R. have given too little weight to the facts of external influences, outside the home, which have weathered the characters of literally millions of young adult Americans and present-day children have been the most corrupt, greedy and defiantly indecent that have ever before prevailed in the United States.

13 Are Held in Harlem Brawl In Which Youth Was Shot Dead

Times—New York, N.Y.

Twelve Harlem youths were held in $15,000 bail each on charges of felonious assault and a thirteenth without bail by Magistrate Harry G. Andrews in Felony Court yesterday as an aftermath of the battle of street gangs on Monday night in which a Negro policeman was critically wounded, a Negro boy shot dead and four others wounded.

7-12-44

In setting the high bail, Magistrate Andrews emphasized that "there is too much of this gangsterism and hoodlumism in Harlem," and then sharply added: "It is about time you men made up your minds that you are going to be good citizens or spend the rest of your lives in jail." Earlier in the day, Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine praised the police for their suppression of the disorder.

"Last night in Harlem," the Commissioner said, referring to Monday night, "a party was sponsored by the Park Department. After the party a fight started that developed into a riot. That spells serious disorder and I applaud the men of our department who were there last night for the action they took in using their firearms to protect their own lives and the lives of others."

Before bail wa sset, Assistant District Attorney Carl J. Rubino requested Magistrate Andrews to fix the amount at $25,000, pointing out that the shooting took place in a public park where a block party was in progress in Bradhurst Avenue near 148th Street. Odo Wilkinson, 17 years old, of 300 Wes 154th Street, identified by the police as the one who shot George Christy, 16, of 287 West 142d Street, was held without bail. Wilkinson's record showed two previous arrests for juvenile offenses.

Christy was under arrest in Harlem Hospital, suffering from bullet wounds in his left arm, chest and right hip. He was charged with attempting to shoot Patrolman Benjamin Clopola of the West 135th Street Station. who went to the aid of Patrolman William A. Frazier, who is still on the critical list in Harlem Hospital.

7-12-44

Three other boys, under 16 years of age, were taken to Children's Court and their cases were set for next Wednesday. This made a total of seventeen arrests. The other youngsters will get another hearing on the same day in Felony Court. The entire group were questioned through the night at the west 135th Street station.

Yesterday the neighborhood was quiet and the police said that the sudden flare of gang warfare was purely a local matter.

Boy Shot In Hectic Gang Fight Here

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

Real "Gangland" Activity Highlights Activities Of Local Outfits

3-11-44

Bullets whined through the air in uptown Brooklyn on Friday evening and early Saturday morning when two youthful gangs renewed their warfare. Miraculously only one youth was injured when one of the flying bullets hit his hand.

Approximately 7 p. m. on Friday evening, the first portion of the hectic battle got under way at Throop Ave. and Hancock St. According to the police, two groups of boys ranging from 14 to 17 years of age, became involved in an argument and gun play was brought into action.

Youth Shot

It was at this time that Robert MacDonald Snagg, 14, of 372 Quincy St., was shot. Detectives told reporters that they had been searching for Snagg for several months to question him concerning a robbery.

Snagg was treated for his injury and later that evening Detective Vernon Holliday took him to the Brooklyn Palace where a dance was being held. Snagg remained silent and if he did see his assailant, he would not identify him.

Snagg reportedly told detectives that "he was going to take care of the guy himself."

More Shooting

Things quieted down until 4 a. m. on Saturday morning when the dance closed at the Brooklyn Palace. Bobby-sox girls and two groups of youths boarded the Fulton St. subway train at the Rockaway station and rode to Throop Ave. Here the groups emerged from the subway via different entrances.

3-11-44

Just as they reached the street an automobile whirled around the corner of Throop Ave., and according to reports, someone in the car fired a shot. One of the group on the sidewalk returned fire and it was at this time that Patrolman Phlanagan rushed to the scene.

All of the girls and most of the boys eluded the officer, but three were caught and lined on a porch. Carl Spencer, 16, of 264 Jefferson Ave., and two other boys whose names are withheld because of their youth, were arrested.

Gun Found

A gun was found a short distance from the scene of the shooting, and police say that Spencer admitted that he had tossed the weapon to the ground when the cop came on the scene.

None of the boys arrested would give any information to the police. It was revealed that the fights were a continuance of the "kid gang" battles between the Robins and the Beavers, and uptown detectives have already spread a dragnet in an effort to catch the leaders of these respective juvenile hordes.

12 Harlem Youths Held In Fatal Gang Battle

World-Telegram—New York, N.Y.

Twelve Negro youths, none over 17, were held in high bail today and another was refused bail as the outcome of a Harlem gang battle last night. One youth was shot to death in the battle, two other persons, one a policeman, are near death in Harlem Hospital and three others were wounded.

7-11-44

The youths were arraigned in Felony Court before Magistrate Harry G. Andrews, who excoriated them in the strongest language as he fixed bail. Three other boys, all under 16, also were arrested as juvenile delinquents and one of the wounded youths is under arrest in the hospital, but these did not appear in Felony Court.

Real Gang Warfare.

Harlem, meanwhile, was quiet, but tense and under heavy police guard. All high ranking officers of the Police Department conferred with the area were notified of the battle during the night and reported at once to their commands.

In Felony Court, Carl L. Rubino, assistant district attorney, told Magistrate Andrews that "this is real gang war in Harlem and it's about time it stopped." He asked bail of $25,000 for each youth. Chancellors, the Commanches, the Detective Philip Charles of the Copians and the Sabres. He said 135th St. station, told the battle, in which scores of shots were fired, that the battle was between four

Christy himself is also under arrest, charged with attempting to shoot Patrolman Benjamin Clopola of the West 135th St. station.

The fighting started on Bradhurst Ave., between 147th and 149th Sts., and commando tactics were employed as snipers fired from behind parked cars, knife squads worked from alleyways, heavy missiles flew through the air and young thugs clubbed each other over the heads.

Scores of shots were fired in the darkened streets of the lonely area, which is just east of Colonel Christy, 16, of by the late stroller because it who lies seriously has been the scene of robberies Harlem Hospital and assaults.

Squad cars of uniformed and

you young men minds to be law- Magistrate An- scowling group be- station.

you'll spend the in jail. You're a law-abiding citi- There is too much hoodlumism in of a daily gang war in Harlem and it's out time it stopped." set further hear- bail of $25,000 Detective Philip 135th St. station, court the battle was

$15,000 each for and held Odo Wil- 300 W. 154th St., without bail and ing for July 19.

The youth is charged specifically with the shooting of George Christy, 16, of 287 W. 142nd St., who lies seriously wounded in Harlem Hospital and assaults.

plainclothes police, themselves Negroes, descended on the scene and the officers opened fire as rocks and bullets whizzed in their direction.

Patrolman William Frazier of the Sixth Division tumbled out of a car and started for the scene, only to drop to the pavement with a slug through his body. He is 28 and lives at 789 E. 166th St., the Bronx.

Bullets Riddle Body.

Police identified the dead youth as John Jacob Moore, 18, of 57 W. 135th St. His body was found in the street with several bullet wounds. 7-11-44

All five of the wounded were taken to Harlem Hospital, where Patrolman Frazier, the most seriously injured, was said to be dangerously weak.

The others were identified as: Victor McBean, 16, of 307 W. 153rd St.; Herbert Clarke, 23, of 2816 Eighth Ave., and William Cleophus, 22, of 560 W. 144th St., and Christy.

Juvenile or Police Delinquency—Which?

People's Voice—New York, N.Y.
7-22-44

Saturday night's police roundup of 20 youth, five of whom were under 16, was called inexcusable, unjustifiable, conducive to cop-hating and juvenile delinquency, by a milling crowd outside of the 32nd Police Prec. on 135 st. According to an undisputed story two boys engaged in a fist-fight about 10 pm Saturday night in 134 st just off 7 av. A crowd gathered, in which were a number of youths, some who had just left the YMCA, others who were members of the St. Christopher Boys Club, of St. Philip's PE Church, and still others who belonged to the Salem Crescent Club, of Salem ME Church.

When the police arrived the fight was over and the youths, along with the other adults, were still lingering about. According to eye-witnesses, about twenty boys who had not participated in the brawl were picked up indiscriminately, and taken to the police station where they were booked for disorderly conduct. 7-22-44

From the crowd that gathered before the police station came protests that these innocent kids would suffer the stigma of a police record, as a result of over-ambitious and indiscriminate police activity. All interviewed in the crowd claimed there was no gang fight. An arresting officer, Patrolman Scott, said that no knives were found on the boys.

Some who understand police procedure said that children under 16 who were not guilty of any wrong should be turned over to the Juvenile Aid Bureau. They particularly regretted this spectacle in Harlem since it followed so closely the shooting of two youths at the 145th st swimming pool recently in what police called gang activity. 7-22-44

The youths under 16 picked up Saturday night were Alvin Gaddy, 2457 7th av; George Crawford, 514 W 152 st; Graham Cumberbatch, 224 W 131 st; Milton Williams, 27 W 139 st, and James Thornton, 2521 8th av.

GANGSTERISM MUST CEASE!

LAST week's papers carried headlines which revealed a rising tide of hoodlumism and gangsterism among our youth in Harlem. And, as if to make the faces of our professional social workers-rationalizers more red, the youths selected as the scene of battle a fine public park and playground. ABC, N.Y., N.Y.

When the smoke of the battle had cleared, one 15-year-old boy had been fatally shot, a policeman had been critically wounded and four other youths had been hospitalized. It all happened, police said, because two rival gangs decided to fight it out. Strangely enough, however, the fighting among the two rival gangs had only reached the stage where bottles and bricks were being hurled, although a bottle or brick can become a lethal weapon very easily. When police intervened, the rival gangs forgot their rivalry to turn on police with guns. July 22, 1944

What caused the fight?

Certainly not the lack of recreational facilities, because the scene of the fight was Colonial Park and on the night in question a well known name band was playing for a free dance and concert in the park.

Certainly not the lack of money, because any of the youths could very easily have gotten a job at decent wages in either private industry or in defense plants in the metropolitan area.

What caused the fight,—and this is something that we must face and face squarely,—is that a lot of our youth today are growing up without inhibitions of any kind and are anti-social. They have no respect for authority because their parents have failed in their responsibilities of giving them proper training.

They have no respect for the rights of others, because many of them have been pampered by indulging parents and have grown up thinking only of their own rights and privileges with nary a thought of anyone else.

They have no respect for law and order, because they have seen their friends and acquaintances run afoul of the law only to be mildly chastized by some over-indulgent judge and told to go home and be a good boy.

They have no respect for the police, because they have seen policemen openly rebuked in court for making arrests of minors who have committed a crime.

They have no respect for themselves or their race, because they were never taught to have respect for anybody.

It is time that a halt was called on further hoodlumism and quasi-gangsterism by our youths in Harlem.

It is time that all of us come to the realization that unless we act now, Harlem will become more of a ghetto, more of a slum and more of a cause of regret to a great many of us that the community we call home is fast becoming a hell-hole.

It is time that we stop rationalizing and blaming the world for our troubles.

It is time that gangsterism, hoodlumism and other manifestations of a breakdown of social, moral and spiritual values, cease.

Not tomorrow, or the day after, but right now!

Aid Urged for Delinquents

New York Times

Child-Parent Consultation Service Is Recommended for Harlem Youth

N.Y., N.Y.—7-29-44

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

I am not as fully convinced as Mayor La Guardia seemed to be during his broadcast last Sunday that "the whole childhood of the city" is under a ridiculous indictment as a result of pressure groups charging an alarming increase in juvenile delinquency. However, I do say that this year, just as in other years, a pertinent and searching inquiry in the mind-eye of the masses of New York citizens is: "What is our youth doing with its sharpened wits and stored-up knowledge?" As a Negro I naturally am interested in this inquiry as it concerns itself with our Negro youth, particularly in Harlem.

For large numbers of Harlem's youthful Negroes little or no effective individual guidance is being offered. In many cases of juvenile delinquency, real or technical, young Negroes are being hampered by a limited knowledge of the facts of the Negro's peculiar position in American life. This is resulting in a disillusionment which constantly molests them. 7-29-44

Aimless Wandering

Further, as a result of a weakening of self-confidence and self-reliance, these young people are losing an intrinsic desire to make a common-sense and realistic approach to their problems in an effort to achieve practical good and are wandering about aimless but determined to do something, however blindly they are going about it.

Interestingly enough, however, such cases of youthful unadjustment and maladjustment disclose that many Negro parents who really love their children and would give them much needed guidance and who, it might be said, would be the last to admit they are unmindful of the Negro's perplexing status in America's so-called "democratic life," do not themselves manifest a steady and conscientious awareness of the fact that for all of us life is just one adjustment after another, adjustments that begin early, that never stop, that stay late. 7-29-44

They are either unwilling or unable to comprehend and impart the social philosophy that each age, each phase, asks for readjustment, and if unable to make it, there is trouble.

Consultation Service Urged

Because I believe it is a combination of the two elements rather than one or the other, I join the Mayor in contending that "cases should be 'screened' before taking them to court in order to fix responsibility of neglectful or delinquent parents," carefully selected Negro parents or exploiting parents," a reality I suggest an amazingly short time.

GEORGE H. BENNETT.

New York, July 25, 1944.

the establishment of a Child-Parent Consultation Service in Harlem for the purpose of helping Negro children and their parents to a more practical understanding that they must come to accept themselves, to have a right estimate of themselves, and learn how to get along with themselves and others

32-1944

Pastors View Lack Of Home Control As Major Factor In Delinquency Rise

Post- Birmingham, Ala.
5-24-44

By Argyle S. Copeland

Ministers of Birmingham, consulted for opinions on the basic contributing factors of juvenile delinquency here, concur in the view that it begins at home from lack of parental control.

They agreed with psychologists that the home is primary in building a child's chararter. The more strongly character is built, the less likely are children to succumb to temptations, increasing in wartime.

"The church is doing what it can to counteract subversive influences in unco-operating homes," Dr. Fred Chenault, pastor of the First Methodist Church, said. "The church can do much to offer recreational and diversional activities for juveniles.

"In my opinion," he declared, "It home, school, and church to remedy the deplorable problem of juvenile delinquency."

Publicity Blamed

Dr. Harold Dudley, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and president of the Birmingham Pastors' Union, declared that "publicity has done much to increase delinquency among young people, because of the glamour it has offered to a certain class of boys and girls."

"Supervised recreation programs carried on over a period of years can create a lasting effect on the lives of boys and girls," Dr. Dudley said. 5-24-44

It was his opinion that dancing as a creative art may be, can be, and should be wholesome as a recreation activity.

Venereal Disease Rises

"Youth will have its fling and some delinquency problems are constant," Dr. John C. Turner, rector of the Church of the Advent, said. "Of course, the war and its subsequent effects on home life and the young people have increased delinquency to alarming proportions."

As a member of the Jefferson County Board for Prevention and Combating Venereal Diseases, Dr. Turner verified the outstanding wartime increase in those diseases among juveniles. 5-24-44

"There is little that can be done about the control of venereal disease," Dr. Turner said, "because of the inhibitions parents have about teaching its cause and cures."

The ministers agreed that the most drastic and effective step that can be taken is a sweeping return to parental control, whether it takes physical punishment or mental domination. This control of children must extend into the schools, the ministers declared.

"School children have been nothing but guinea pigs in the system of 'progressive' education," the Baptist minister said. "Educators have convinced the children and the parents that to say 'no' to a child creates inhibitions."

"In 'progressive' education, the Ten Commandments, based on the negative 'Thou shalt not,' have been thrown into the discard," Dr. Buchanan said. "Consequently, the child is allowed to have the stronger opinion when clashes occur with adult authority." Most parents are afraid of their children's opinions, he said.

"Today's youth are victims of a situation," Dr. Buchanan declared. "And it will take a coalition of the would take a seven-day weekly program, directed and supervised by sacrificing and unselfish workers, to direct over-abundant energies of

SIXTH OF A SERIES

young people into proper channels if it hasn't been done in the homes.

"This program should consist of physical release in the form of sports," Dr. Chenault asserted. "Dancing as a recreational measure to combat delinquency is a hindrance and not a help." 5-24-44

Lack of home control, the war situation, and the influence of "progressive" education have contributed much to juvenile delinquency. This was the opinion of Dr. John H. Buchanan, pastor of Southside Baptist Church.

Books to Help Fight Rise of Delinquency

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.
1-29-44

NYC Library's Budget Will Also Consider Books To Aid Returning Soldier

In making public today The New York Public Library's budget request, which has been submitted to the Director of the Budget, Morris Hadley, President of the Board of Trustees, pointed ou the need to strengthen the book stock and the personnel. For these purposes he urged an increase of $395,294.55 in the total budget request of $2,117,505 for 1944-45.

"Two outstanding needs are consistently emphasized by branch librarians throughout the system," Mr. Hadley stated, "the need for books and services for young people and for returning soldiers and war workers." 1-29-44

A major concern is that of preparation for the vocational rehabilitation of discharged service men. They are already going to the libraries as one of the early steps in a return to civilian life. The men want books to help them choose new careers or to learn more about specific trades. Current demands of these returning soldiers offer a preliminary view of the service the libraries will be called upon to give in much greater volume as the war progresses and after peace is achieved. "Thousands of books in this vocational field alone are needed," Mr. Hadley said. 1-29-44

"The second immediate requirement is for books for young people. While new agencies are being created to attract and interest young people and prevent juvenile delinquency, every existing agency must be strengthened, Mr. Hadley stated.

The libraries have reading clubs for boys and girls. They conduct film projects and coordinate them with reading in order to attract young people. They bring together different races and religious groups of young people in a natural relation to each other with a common interest in books—and they lack sufficient books to hold their interest. In the opinion of librarians, the need for books and personnel trained to work with young people is a problem of vital importance.

Across The Desk

Age-Herald, New York, N. Y.
1-29-44

By LUDLOW W. WERNER

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY — One of the finest articles that I have read about juvenile delinquency appeared in the recent issue of a Chicago publication, "Bronzeville", and was written by Jay J. Peters. Mr. Peters has hit the nail on the head and because I believe that his article should have wide distribution, I reprint it here.

"The sickening spectacle", Mr. Peters wrote, "of seeing and hearing various groups of said-to-be-honest people talk loosely about 'juvenile delinquency' and the future of young people is becoming increasingly obnoxious to persons who are seriously trying to correct those rotten social systems which create every kind of social filth and which are being perpetuated vigorously by wicked adults.

"As though they were asses who did not know what older people piously call 'juvenile delinquency' is actually adult delinquency, the vain critics of youth, instead of adopting a policy of militant opposition to the existence of those crooked educational, industrial, cultural, and political institutions in which young folks are born and reared, merely pursue an empty program of Don't and geneal condemnation. People who understand the normal growing youngster are not alarmed at his emotional responses to certain situations. The young monkey, our near cousin, jumps from limb to limb, squealing the adult cry of its parents, just as accurately as does the young person who imitates the habits and customs of parents, friends and environments. 1-29-44

"In warning the people of His day against false prophets, Jesus significantly declared: 'A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.' We older people, instead of losing so much sleep over juvenile delinquency ought to concern ourselves with our own mean, despicable way of life. We, who teach children how to lie, steal and hate other people, ought to get busy and kindle on the altars of our hearts adequate flames of devotion to the cause of universal justice for all races of mankind. We hypocrites and devils in human flesh — who continue brazenly to stab democracy in the back with one hand while we preach artificial sermons on freedom and equality by holding up the Holy Bible with the other, ought to ask ourselves: 'Do men gather grapes off thorn or figs off thistles?' You cannot deny good housing, proper recreation and wholesome environment to young people and then blame them for their social errors; for these are some of the pitfalls created by Adult Delinquency. We cannot dramatize vice and crime in the movies and in the public press and expect children to escape their baneful effects. We cannot preach race hate to our children and expect them to practice inter-racial cooperation and good-will. We cannot deny justice to whole groups of people on account of race or color and expect them to avoid the pitfalls of social decay. We cannot set traps of adult delinquency and successfully pray that youth won't get caught. Adult Delinquency is as much the parent of juvenile delinquency as the mother and the father are the parents of the child. Nothing happens by chance . . . We reap exactly what we sow!"

— a. t. d. —

Locally, here in New York, everyone is beginning to talk more and more about juvenile delinquency as result of an idea conceived by the Police Department's Inspector Kent, in charge of Juvenile Aid Bureau work. It is Inspector Kent's belief that the solution to the problem of juvenile delinquency lies with the parents. Enlist the parents, and get them to working on the problem and you've solved it, Inspector Kent naively says.

The Police Department's cure-all for juvenile delinquency is to be through the medium of Coordinating Councils formed in every police precinct. It is the aim of these Councils, I am informed, to organize citizens in each precinct to prevent and combat delinquency through programs which the Councils will initiate with the help of police captains as coordinators. 1-29-44

Some eight or ten years ago, the Police Department tried out the plan of having citizens' panels, but the citizens soon tired because every meeting turned out to be just a gripe session at which a lot of people got up and talked so

much that people who were really interested in the problem quit in disgust.

If the Police Department wants to do something about juvenile delinquency, instead of dumping the major responsibility upon the communities, let it treat the Juvenile Aid Bureau as a really functional bureau with an adequate staff and trained personnel. There was a time when the Juvenile Aid Bureau functioned as a live agency with the necessary personnel. In recent years, however, the bureau has become the stepchild of the Police Department and has been working with skeleton staffs and commanding officers, who while they may make good policemen do not necessarily make good executives of an agency dealing with children.

The community is concerned with juvenile delinquency, as it should be, but I do not believe that the sole responsibility should rest with the community. The Police Department must show that it intends to do something about it — not by forming Coordinating Councils, but by pouring into the Juvenile Aid Bureau the best men and women in the department and starting to work on a real program.

EDITORIAL

Amsterdam News - New York, N. Y.

Mainly About Brooklyn Parents 1-29-44

Magistrate Henry A. Soffer of Far Rockaway, really put the flame to the torch last week when he said: "Parental delinquency is the problem, not juvenile. I wish we had parental schools for delinquent parents. That's where they belong . . . we send children to institutions, but it's the parents who should be sent away."

Irate parents in the Brooklyn-Queens area immediately went up in arms against the magistrate's declaration. It was ridiculous, they said, to even consider incarcerating parents for a thing of this nature. In many instances, they contended, parents have done everything humanly possible and still their offsprings treaded off the proper road.

There are instances where youths from respectable families, who despite the efforts of their parents, have run afoul of laws and have appeared in courts. However, the major portion of juvenile crime is committed by youths who hail from families who have been lackadaisical in teaching their children right from wrong. Some of these parents probably do not know right from wrong. 1-29-44

Regardless of whether you agree with Magistrate Soffer or not, it would be well for all parents to take an inventory of themselves. Art you giving your children the proper attention? Are you keeping abreast with their activities? Are they in the proper environment? These are just a few of the things that parents should look into. Remember you, the parents, can guide your children correctly in 90 per cent of the instances. Why not start off on the right foot today?

D.C. Schools in All-Out War Against Delinquency

Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.

Novel Ideas Are Being Used to Reach Teen-Agers and Get Favorable Reactions

2-5-44

WASHINGTON — Washington schools made an all-out attack on the problem of juvenile delinquency last week, attacking the demon in many quarters and in varied ways.

The campaign was highlighted by a community youth conference held Saturday at the George Bell School, under auspices of the school and the Southwest Community Center.

Teen-Agers Heard

Appearing on the formal program with school, welfare, church and other officials, 15-year-old Lois Smith, a representative of the Community House, told an audience of approximately 700 children, parents and municipal officials that "this is our community too."

Others on the program included Dr. Howard H. Long, who presided; Dr. Garnet C. Wilkinson, superintendent of schools; Miss Elsie P. Derricotte, Bell School principal; Miss Lillian H. Dotson, director of Southwest House; Wayne Sommer, of the Council of Social Agencies; the Rev. Francis W. McPeek, of the Washington Federation of Churches; A. K. Savoy, John T. Rhines, and Ralph Matthews, editor of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN.

Subsequently the young people were asked, in various discussion groups, to give their opinions on problems connected with their church, school, home and recreational life.

Discussions were conducted by Lee Johnson, Mrs. Rosalie Hill, and Kirk Jackson.

Cabaret Party Featured

The delinquency problem was tackled in another form at the Browne Junior High School, where a cabaret party, featuring members of their class as entertainers, was given by Los Amigos, the 9th Grade organization.

With the auditorium gaily decorated in a Spanish setting, the pupils danced and sipped Spanish fruit punches to the donated music of Coleridge Davis's Club Bali quartet. 2-5-44

Adult Conduct Taught

Principal William Stinson created the idea to teach youngsters "how to do the things they are going to do anyway when they grow up."

With Donald Walker acting as master of ceremonies, the following acts were presented: David Franks, comedian; William Brewer, baritone; Mattie Beaman, singer of Spanish songs; Erta Williford and Donald Walker, tango team, and the Off Tone Four, a school band.

Jerome Carrington, well known professional singer, also donated his services for the occasion.

Guests of the pupils at the affair were their parents and teachers, two of whom, Miss Cera Catlett and Mrs. Amelia McCamey, assisted materially in the production.

Youngsters' Fight Is Not 'Race Riot'

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Eight boys were held for further action when 16 youths appeared in Brooklyn's Adolescents Court on charges of disorderly conduct aboard a Tompkins Ave. street car. Five other boys were released on bail and three girls were paroled. All will be given further hearing next Monday.

The youths, all Negro, were alleged by police to be members of rival "kids' gangs" and the fight, contrary to reports in the World-Telegram Wednesday, was not between Negro and white passengers. Ruth Upham, a young white woman of 1096 Park Ave., Brooklyn, reported that she had been hurt in the free-for-all but did not say, as reported in the World-Telegram, that she had been assaulted.

6-2-44

Boy, 11, Warned After Wounding 1 of 'Tormentors'

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

7-11-44

An 11-year-old Negro boy who let loose with a shotgun blast at several other Negro youths who attempted to get into his home Saturday was told by Judge Lawrence Wetherby in Juvenile Court yesterday that he was "very lucky" that he wasn't in court on a charge of murder.

One of the youths caught in the blast from the shotgun was treated at General Hospital with wounds in the face. His condition is not serious.

The boy said that a group of boys who "always torment" him attempted to break in his home while his parents were away. He said he got his father's shotgun because he thought he was in danger.

His case was continued.

KICKING UP DUST

Amsterdam News, New York, N. Y. 1-29-44

32-1944

Harlem Hoodlums Must Go

Amsterdam News—New York, N. Y.

A hoodlum is a hoodlum and the sooner we stop calling them by any other name and regarding them as something else, the sooner we will be on our way toward bringing to a halt the numerous outbursts of violence as last week when a 17-year-old gangster was killed, a policeman badly wounded, and four others were hurt. Too much emphasis has been laid on the rather ambiguous term, "juvenile delinquency." There is altogether too much of a tendency to treat the matter of outright hoodlumism as a "broad, social problem" that will require years of treatment to solve. The constant talk along general lines about tearing down Harlem buildings and erecting new structures; more playgrounds, greater recreational facilities, etc., etc., does nothing to solve the problem now when it ought to be solved. 7-22-44

The Sabers, Bachelors and Chancellors — the three gangs of Harlem teen aged boys who fought it out with guns, knives, blackjacks, sticks and stones in Colonial Park last week — are but three units of a citywide menace confronting those citizens who want to live decently and respectably in the most liberal city in America. There are hundreds of such gangs roaming the streets of Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. There are white gangs and Negro gangs. Our concern are with the Negro gangs. In them lie the seeds for riots and unwelcome publicity for all Negroes, whether in Harlem or elsewhere. They must be broken up.

It has been said that majority of the 18 and 19 year old boys who are members of these vicious bands of hoodlums are Selective Service rejectees. They were given 4-F status by their draft boards because of social diseases, mental instability, and other physical reasons. Yet, they are physically able to shoot policemen and each other; to rob, steal and terrorize decent citizens; to kill other youngsters. They have enough mental ability to grind iron pipes into pistol barrels; the ingenuity to rig up rubber bands on the butts of toy pistols to operate triggers that will fire cartridges through the homemade barrels of these rude guns they make. If they can do all these things, then the selective service is not doing a complete job when such persons are given the free run of our streets, unsupervised, unchecked as they launch on careers that lead straight to the electric chair or to Sing Sing cells. To take from the community law-abiding young men, hard-working sons and even fathers and place them in army camps, is inconsistent when others who should be given such responsibilities are allowed to go free. 7-22-44

What is needed in Harlem immediately are as many policemen like those who broke up the gang fight in Colonial Park as can be found. Negro policemen probably know how to deal most effectively with these defiant young hoodlums who have no respect for law and order, no sense of community responsibility, no racial pride and no moral conceptions of any kind. The Selective Service Boards throughout Harlem as well as Greater New York City should start reviewing the cases of eligibles for military duty, especially those who have no gainful employment or who cannot show they are busy in essential occupations. The Man Warpower Commission should arrive at some method where 18 to 25-year-old Selective Service rejectees can be immediately placed in war plants or other places where they can be gainfully occupied. Until these steps are taken, the hoodlums will continue to embarrass not only Harlem but all of New York City.

Eight Youths Held in Slayings of Two Men

PM—New York, N. Y.

8-13-44

Behind-the-Scenes Check Reveals Insecurity to Blame in One Case; Racial Tension in the Other

By Earl Conrad

An aged white man is found fatally beaten and robbed—of 75 cents—in Brooklyn. Four Negro boys are arrested, charged with homicide. At about the same time, in East Harlem, four white youths are arrested, also charged with homicide, in the slaying of a Negro. All the youths will have hearings this week.

PM Exclusive

To get "the other side of the story," if there was another side, we went to the homes of the four Brooklyn Negro boys accused of fatally beating William Schroeder, 70, of 660 McDonough St.—from whom, police said, they took 75 cents. 8-13-44

Schroeder is dead and buried—beaten with a baseball bat assertedly wielded by two of the boys, but the youngsters are alive and symbos of hundreds of other teenage kids who are getting into trouble these days.

First I called at the home of Kenneth Skinner, 14, of 653 Kings 6th Walk, Kingsborough Housing Project, who, say police, led the others, and struck the first blows. Only 14, he split the 75 cents with an accomplice.

The Skinner apartment was modern, the furniture decent, the living room light and airy, and the walls noticeably decked with religious and homey sayings.

Deserted by Husband

In a slight West Indian dialect, Mrs. Skinner told me how her husband had deserted her 10 years ago, "returned to the other side," ...g that ever since her life had become a steady involvement with clinics and bureaus, "people coming to the house to ask questions."

They had lived in the project for three years, she and two sons, and I gathered that whatever damage had been done Kenneth occurred before they came here.

The reception was different at the home of Robert McGowan, 16, of 718 Hancock St., also alleged to have used a bat on the old man. Mrs. McGowan, small, nervous, called her daughter, who said they'd make no statement.

I climbed the pitch black staircase at 953 St. Marks Ave. where live the parents of Thomas Porter, 15, an alleged accomplice.

Seek Place to Live

"Our problem," said Mrs. Porter, a young mother of seven, of whom Thomas is the oldest, "has been mainly trying to find a place to live. We used to live in an old place near the housing project, but moving here hasn't been much better."

The large family, the harassed night-working father, told a story of living at the edge of security.

Geneva Washington 20-year-old sister of Albert, 15, of 1424 Atlantic Ave., said one thing especially about her accused brother I'll always remember: , 8-13-44

"We had to take Albert out of school last year, his clothes were so bad. He was in rags, and we didn't have the money to fix him up. But he was going to go back to school this September."

All the lads came from crowded and disorganized homes. Poverty was their blood brother. But a 70-year-old workingman is dead—killed—and this is a newspaper, not a court.

PM Exclusive

It is definitely known that a gang of white boys living in East Harlem "jumped" Beasley Player, 24, of 168 Lenox Ave., a superintendent of a Bronx apartment house, last Saturday night at E. 117th St. and Lexington Ave., and, with a knife and club, killed him. Police picked up four suspects and charged them with homicide. 8-13-44

I wanted to see what the "background" might be of these accused and called at 204 E. 113th St., where live the families of Ercoli Ercolana, 17, and Carmelo Belloni, 16, two of the accused.

Gathered in a small room on the second floor of an ancient building, where we could look out on a shabby street, I listened to Mrs. Ercolana and Mrs. Belloni protest their sons' imprisonment, saying that their boys were picked up because police needed to make arrests.

Poverty, Congestion

Whatever the merits or demerits of the police charge, the story of these women and of the families of the other accused boys revealed that East Harlem is alive with tensions. 8-13-44

Poverty, congestion and lack of adult education among the national groups hereabouts, especially among Negro and white whose neighborhoods adjoin, have brought about a serious situation, they said, in which life may be in danger for money, or color, or for no apparent reason at all. They acknowledged that whites have made raids into Negro districts and charged that Negroes have attacked them.

I talked with the uncle of Vincent Iorio, 17, of 309 E. 120th St., also arrested as a member of the attacking party. The uncle, well-spoken, owner of an automobile, a defense worker, said that his nephew worked, that all the accused had jobs. Vincent, he said, lived with his mother while his father worked in defense out of the city. The uncle also spoke of the acute inter-group tensions in the area, said that he thought authorities ought to do something about it.

8-13-44

Same Story

The same story of ill relations between Negro and white issued from the Nepolitano parents, of 207 E. 114th St., whose 19-year-old son, Al, is the fourth in the group. Their home was comfortable, all are employed. They said their son never was in trouble.

Merits of either case aside, Brooklyn, or East Harlem, the crowded communities, the proximity of groups who have not been educated to understand each other, the economic and social competitions—these form the same pattern which have made it possible, in the same week for four boys, white, to be accused of slaying a Negro, and four Negro boys to be charged with killing a white.

Crashes End Chase

A 75-mile-an-hour chase through downtown Washington in which a car driven by a 15-year-old Negro crashed into another car and through two shop windows was climaxed with his arrest early yesterday. He was held at the Receiving Home charged with stealing a car owned by Hadley Lane, 1707 13th st nw. Washington, D.C. Post 7-28-44

Two patrolmen, Richard Meissner and Gerald L. Keyser, said they spotted an unlighted car coming east on the 600 block near M st. and ordered the driver to put his lights on. They become suspicious when he ran through a stop sign at 5th and M sts. nw. The young driver led them for a 15-minute chase. The pursuit ended when he sideswiped a car and drove through the show windows of the Nachman furniture company at Kattelman's jewelry store at 715 and 717 7th st. nw.

7-28-44

Threaten Riots In Little Rock

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.

8-25-44

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(A N P business section has been eyed by blast of Thursday's explosives as

—A heavy explosive the intersection of Gaines Sts. Thursday group of white boys has led Little Rock citizens to believe that this loomed around two years ago city will be the scene of some when a white policeman killed a major riot unless such Negro military officer on the same bances are immediately checked. Witnesses described the resultant

5-25-44

"deafening," and say that casualties would have occurred had it been thrown in a crowd. The incident was seen by colored Patrolmen Burgy and Matthews who recalled a similar occurrence a few weeks ago in the same area.

Delinquency Causes Cited By Educator

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
5-18-44

Declares Negro Juvenile Delinquency No Different From That of the Whites

9-16-44

CHICAGO (ANP)—Jesuit educators attending the summer school of Catholic Action thoroughly attacked the "race question," in sessions last week at the Morrison Hotel.

In a panel discussion on juvenile delinquency Friday the Rev. A. Gallagher, S. J., regent of the school of social work of Loyola University, Chicago, declared that Negro juvenile delinquency is no greater than that among the whites.

"Negro delinquency," Father Gallagher said, "is largely present because of the white citizens' dereliction of duty. The white person allows his prejudice to interfere with Negro rights is sinning not only against society but also against God. Don't forget that Negro rights, which are the same as ours, come not from society but from God, just as do our own."

Negro youth is deprived, not depraved, the educator said. He told his audience of more than 2,000 priests, sisters and students attending the session, that the deplorable condition of Negro housing is a basic cause for most of the juvenile delinquency and poor health.

Harlem Shocked Over Schoolmate Stabbed to Death

By stander—Des Moines Iowa.
5-18-44

New York (Calvin's News Service)—Harlem was shocked last week over the brutal stabbing of nine year old Margaret Patten by two girls of the sixth grade, Eileen Foster, 13, and Madeline Kirkland, 11, because Margaret "tattled" on them.

Police say the tragedy began this way: Madeline and Eileen were anxious to see the ratings of their report cards. So while their class was out during recess, they grabbed a batch of cards, went home, but found their own cards were not among them. When they returned to school, they overheard little Margaret telling their teacher something about the theft. Assuming that she was tattling on them, they returned home and talked over the situation. Eileen, the older girl, took her mother's potato knife, while Madeline was already armed with a knife she had taken from the school, P. S. 113, 133rd street.

5-18-44

Then they returned to school, donned Hallowe'en masks and entered the auditorium where Margaret was sitting. One girl held Margaret while the other stabbed her in the heart. Their little victim died 37 minutes later.

When police arrived at the scene, Williams had left but was later arrested at St. Ann and Villere streets.

Assistant District Attorney Lloyd Hoffman, who conducted the investigation along with Captain Edward Theard of the Fourth Precinct police station, said the youth would be charged with murder and would probably face the criminal district court.

The slain youth was buried from St. Peter Claver church on Friday afternoon.

Said to Be over Girl

Numerous stories concerning the stabbing are being related. One is to the effect that the Williams boy and his victim had been arguing over a girl several weeks ago and that the argument led to the fatal encounter. It is also being said that the stabbing was carried out with such viciousness that after stabbing the James boy who fled toward the drug store, the Williams boy followed him obviously to inflict further wounds. The knife used in the affair, it was reported, was found only a short distance from the drug store.

Boy, 16, Slays Rival, Youth Staggers To Drugstore, Dies

Informer Houston Texas

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU, JR.

NEW ORLEANS, La.— 6/24/44

The long-complained-of juvenile delinquency problem of New Orleans rose to unprecedented heights during the past week when one 16-year-old boy brutally stabbed another youth to death and seriously wounded another in the downtown section of the city.

Fred Williams, of 919 North Villere street, was booked at the Fourth Precinct police station Thursday on a charge of murder in connection with the fatal stabbing of Frank James, 16, of 1663 North Derbigny street, Wednesday night and the serious wounding of Gustave K. Decou, 14, of 1714 Old Roman street. The stabbing was said to have occurred on North Villere street between Ursuline avenue and Governor Nicholls street.

Investigators said that Williams and several companions were walking along North Villere street at 8:55 p.m. when they met James and Decou. On meeting the pair, Williams is said to have suddenly drawn a knife and stabbed James once in the left chest and Decou three times in the back. Police said Williams and James had an argument last week.

After being stabbed, James managed to walk several blocks to a drug store at 1400 Esplanade avenue where he collapsed. The Charity hospital ambulance was summoned and he was pronounced dead on its arrival. Decou was taken to the Charity hospital where his condition was reported as serious.

Negro Cops Are Assigned To South Jamaica Section

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

In response to complaints by Dr. John A. Singleton, South Jamaica dentist and civic leader, that gangs of young ruffians roam the streets almost nightly, two more Negro plainclothesmen were assigned to South Jamaica early last Thursday.

They are Albert B. Moore and Arnold Jones, both Harlem residents who have been working in the area and who replace other Negro officers transferred back to the old beats in Manhattan after two years in the Queens area.

Mayor Takes Action

In his complaint to Mayor La-Guardia and to District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan, Singleton, former chairman of the Jamaica Branch of the NAACP, asked for the return of Brown and Vogelshan to their South Jamaica beats.

Contrary to his request Deputy Inspector James A. McGoey, at Jamaica headquarters, announced the assignment of Moore and Jones, both veteran detectives. Dr. Singleton had also asked for a curfew in South Jamaica and a Grand Jury investigation, asserting that police seemed to be unable to cope with the situation.

8-12-44

In acknowledging Singleton's letter, LaGuardia announced that he "would get right after the trouble." He called in Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine and ordered him to make a thorough investigation. As far as could be determined, District Attorney Sullivan did nothing about Singleton's complaint.

Subway Motorman Shot During Street Fight

People's Voice—New York, N.Y.
11-11-44

Juvenile delinquency flared up to a new height early last Wednesday morning when James Daniel Blackman, 38, 211 West 149 st, a motorman on the Independent subway, was accidentally shot between the eyes and killed instantly during a heated gun battle on the corner of 152 st and 8th av; Hurley Hunter, 16, North Lawn av, Elmsford, NY; and Siegal Sampson, 16, 263 W 153 st.

Besides Nelson, police are holding John Murray, 16, 180 W 152 st; Dudley Smalls, 17, 128 Bradhurst av; Hurley Hunter, 16, North Lawn av, Elmsford, NY; and Siegal Sampson, 16, 263 W 153 st.

Blackman, of the previous record of felonious assault with a .32 caliber automatic, pocketed the gun for protection.

Nelson was apprehended Friday at 5 am in his home, 67 Macombs Place, by Detectives Blackman, Carroll, and Tolopka of the W 135 st station.

Nelson, who has a previous assault with a gun, told police he was warned by one bystander, after him, and Carroll, and Tolopka of the W 135 st station.

Blackman, the innocent by-stander, was dropped by one of four bullets fired from Nelson's gun, as the latter fled pocketed the gun for protection.

Police estimate that altogether 12 jums who he claims, attacked him.

Despite stories in the daily press